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TODAY 10p

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TODAY 10p

Japan shaken by collapsing broker

Clinton flies to aid of his Asian allies

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington
and Jason Nissé

PRESIDENT Clinton yesterday guaranteed America's commitment to the troubled economies of Asia as the possible collapse of Yamaichi, one of the big four Tokyo brokers, threatened the biggest financial failure in Japan since the Second World War.

The board of Yamaichi was *meeting late last night to* decide whether to cease trading after 100 years. The Bank of Japan also met to thrash out a financial package to support investors who have deposited Y24 trillion (£110 billion) with Yamaichi.

Other Japanese banks reacted *quickly to reassure the* markets that they were still solvent. A key supporter of Yamaichi, Fuji Bank, said there was a possibility it may suffer losses on up to Y20 billion of loans.

The Tokyo markets are closed today for a public holiday but the Nikkei index is expected to fall sharply tomorrow. However, experts predicted that the problems of Yamaichi — following earlier collapses of Sanyo Securities and Hokkaido Takushoku, Japan's tenth largest bank — may have a positive effect of the Japanese markets.

Roger Bootle, chief economist at HSBC, said the markets had already discounted the possibility of Yamaichi closing after revelations about its links with organised crime zand its large liabilities. Japanese analysts said the move would speed up deregulation,

which could benefit US brokers such as Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

Arriving in Vancouver yesterday on the eve of the annual gathering of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Mr Clinton attempted to calm *the jittery eastern markets* by portraying America as a Pacific power.

"America's future and Asia's future are joined," he said. "With such deep stakes in the region, our security and our economic interests must go hand in hand."

But the summit, starting today, could not come at a worse time as the 17 Asian and North and South American members of APEC are nearly all wounded by global economic forces beyond their control.

On Friday, South Korea, the world's eleventh biggest economy and a country the US Treasury views as a "firewall" between the Asian market chaos and the two economic superpowers of America and Japan, became *the latest* victim of what has been described as the Asian flu of collapsing markets.

Seoul was forced to follow Thailand and Indonesia in calling on the International Monetary Fund for a bailout of perhaps more than the $50 *billion that Mexico needed in* 1995. The turmoil has been felt in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

Mr Clinton, who was holding talks yesterday with Jean Chretien, the Canadian Prime Minister, and is to have informal meetings this week with *President Jiang Zemin of* China and Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, is unable to offer more than reassuring words.

When he convened the first APEC heads of state summit in Seattle in 1993, he had just pushed through the landmark *North American Free Trade* Agreement. But Mr Clinton arrived this time only weeks after Congress blocked his efforts to win so-called "fast track" negotiating authority.

Mr Clinton, maintaining that he would win that authority early next year, vowed to forge ahead with his drive for free trade, the pillar of his Asia policy embodied in a 1994 agreement with the Asia-Pacific countries to create a free-trade zone as early as 2010.

William Rees-Mogg, page 23
Korean woes, page 50
UK jobs threat, page 52

CHRIS BRANDIS / AP

Phil Stubbs (left) and Robert Hamill fly their flag in Port St Charles, Barbados

Atlantic rowers' 41-day voyage cuts 32 days from record

By Barry Pickthall

RECORD transatlantic rowers Phil Stubbs and Rob Hamill were celebrating victory in Barbados yesterday after crossing the Atlantic in just 41 days, 32 days fewer than the previous best time.

The New Zealand pair, who could not afford £5,000 needed for a radio and do not have enough for an air fare home, did not know that they had won the 3,000 mile race until sighting the palm trees of Port St Charles on Saturday.

They finished 570 miles ahead of their closest rivals from France and have left the best British team trailing by 1,000 *miles*.

Hamill, who won a silver medal in the world two-man skiff championship in 1994 and represented New Zealand at last year's Olympic Games in Atlanta, was surprised by the margin of their victory. "We had no idea we were even *in the lead*. If we had known that, we would have probably slacked off."

Sir Chay Blyth, who organised the race to commemorate his own two-man transatlantic crossing with fellow paratrooper John Ridgeway in 1966, said: "This is *proof* that adventure is still alive. I was amazed by their speed. At times they were going at five knots which shows true grit and typical Kiwi attitude."

Stubbs, a policeman and lifeguard rower, who has his eye on an Olympic rowing medal in 2000, said that the hardest part had been the preparation and training. "The money has always been a problem and we are still in debt. We don't even have the money for our tickets home."

Hamill, a sea-sickness sufferer, put himself through an aerobatics course and sailed across the North Sea to try to overcome the problem. As a result he suffered only slightly for four days after starting from Tenerife with 28 other teams on October 12.

They stopped rowing only once — during at 50-knot gale which they had to sit for two days with their 24ft boat *holding station* with a sea anchor. But the problem that almost broke them was water. Their desalinator broke down on day 12 and again on day 30. "We repaired it but for the last 11 days we could only produce around 15 litres a day. We were drinking twice that much *and had to supplement* our supply from emergency rations," Stubbs said.

Sores, which had plagued the pair during training were overcome with contoured sliding seats and sheepskin cushions. Stubbs said: "We rowed naked most of the way except for gloves which stopped our hands blistering. Our fingers are a bit numb but apart from that we're still very fit."

Nine of the 28 teams have been forced to give up although two individuals are continuing to row despite the fact that their partners have been taken off the boats. One crew has been disqualified for getting outside help. The next rowers are expected to reach Barbados at the end of this week.

Two British brothers were rescued earlier this month after they went missing for six days. Matthew and Edward Boreham were one third of the way through the 3,000 mile crossing.

The transatlantic rowing record was set in *1971* when two British oarsmen Don and Geoff Allum rowed from Las Palmas to Barbados at an average of 37.04 miles a day.

Britain 'must not help extremists'

President Mubarak of Egypt attacked Britain for giving shelter to Islamic extremists and *thus* encouraging attacks such as the Luxor massacre last week in which 58 tourists. He said: "If you do not want your sons to be killed, why do you protect killers?" ...Page 12

Task for Major

John Major's appointment as Prince William's and Prince Harry's legal protector — an honest broker between their mother's estate and the Revenue — *is unlikely to stop the* Treasury gaining much of their inheritance......... Page 5

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Brown rejects softer Budget line on benefits, spending and pay

By Philip Webster
and Alasdair Murray

GORDON BROWN will tomorrow try to quell demands for a softer approach to benefits reform with a warning to ministers and the public that there can be no let-up over spending or pay.

Delivering his first pre-Budget report against the background of a rising Labour *revolt* over cuts in single parent and disability allowances, and new figures suggesting that public finances are far healthier than expected, the Chancellor is expected to say that "vigilance" is now more important than ever for Labour.

He will call on all British workers to keep wages down in the interests of avoiding higher mortgage rates while creating economic prosperity well into the next century.

But he is also likely to say that Labour should avoid the "mistakes of the past" by "erring on the side of caution" in its treatment of public borrowing. It should avoid the error of the "Lawson boom" years in the late 1980s when the Conservative Government eased up, only for public finances to worsen sharply as the recession took a grip.

According to Treasury officials, Mr Brown's message will be that "this is just the point where we have to remain *vigilant*."

There is considerable suspicion among MPs of all parties that Mr Brown wants to be as rigorous as possible in the early years of the Government in the hope of loosening the purse strings nearer the next election. His other theme, they say, is that "wage responsibility is a price worth paying to achieve jobs now and prosperity later".

Ministers are privately bracing themselves for a clash with a public sector union during the winter. For that reason Mr Brown, in presenting his "green" budget, is expected to make plain that the private sector must also shoulder the burden.

With unemployment at its lowest for years the Government fears that the level of wage rises, currently running *at 4.25 per cent, will jeopardise* its inflation target, which would mean higher interest and mortgage rates.

But Mr Brown and Tony Blair are anxious that the promising borrowing figures and the growing internal worries over benefits reform are not used by ministers as an excuse to ask for more money.

In an interview yesterday Mr Blair urged voters to keep faith with his Government and angrily denied that it was failing to keep its promises to the poor and socially excluded.

Last week, however, saw the first signs of internal rebellion since the election, with Labour MPs openly attacking Harriet Harman over *her* plans to reduce benefits for single parents.

Potentially more serious was the threat of more concerted *opposition to a central* plank of the proposed shakeup of the welfare state — proposals to cut benefits for 6.5 million disabled people by encouraging many of them into work. The main objective

Continued on page 2, col 4

Grieving Paula Yates in Sydney

PAULA YATES, the grieving lover of Michael Hutchence arrived in Sydney last night as local police refused to confirm earlier reports that the lead singer of INXS had hanged himself and also denied reports that he had died during a sex game. Lawyers for Ms Yates also denied the sex story

The police were looking for an Australian actress, Kim Wilson, and her boyfiend, Christopher Stollery, who are believed to have visited Hutchence in the bedroom of his hotel shortly before he died.

They also wish to question *Ms Yates* about the state of Hutchence's mind during the past few days. Results of a post mortem examination are expected today.

Death denial, page 3
Obituary, page 25

Ferries bar violent cross-Channel bootleggers

By Steve Keenan
and Stewart Tendler

A CRACKDOWN on cross-Channel crime by police and ferry companies has led to the stamping of offenders' passports so suspects are banned from ferries and trains.

Five ferry firms operating from *Kent ports and the Channel Tunnel* rail operator Le Shuttle have joined the scheme. Offenders are banned indefinitely.

The move is part of a crackdown coordinated by Kent police in reaction to a spiral of violence between rival bootlegger gangs at Dover. But as the pre-Christmas booze cruise business reaches its *peak*, passengers are *also* being banned for offences such as shoplifting, drunkenness and attempts to buy duty-free shopping passes from passengers. The initiative, *said by Dover Harbour Board* and the ferries to have Home Office approval, may eventually be used against football hooligans. Under the scheme suspected offenders are apprehended under legal powers enjoyed by the masters of all ships. Passports are stamped on the spot with each company's ensignia — SF for Sea *France, ST for Stena Line and PO for* P&O European Ferries.

Check-in staff have been told to look out for the stamps and offenders are then denied boarding. Sea France has stamped the passports of eight passengers trying to travel through Dover.

The scheme is aimed particularly at bootleggers who make multiple *crossings and abuse the duty-free* system on ships. They try to buy up duty free vouchers from passengers and there have been complaints of intimidation, abuse and violence *against staff. Police believe gangs* from Newcastle, Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds have joined in the highly profitable trade. In August two men in their thirties were shot within 15 minutes in separate incidents. Assault, burglary and car theft have also increased significantly in Dover.

Yesterday Kent police said the passport scheme comes after a special conference last month with the chief executives of the ferry companies, Dover Harbour police, immigration officers and Customs. Dover Harbour police said the idea has the blessing of the Passport Office, which has agreed where stamps can be placed.

The ban will cover ten offences including trying to buy duty-free shopping passes from other passengers, causing malicious damage, behaving abusively, defrauding gaming *machines, passing counterfeit or stolen* credit cards, and giving false information when checking in.

Robin Wilkins, managing director of Sea France, said the move had received the approval of immigration officials. The stamping of passports was a policy applied only "in extreme circumstances.

"*We are not prepared to tolerate* violence, abuse or physical damage. We are talking about persistent offenders or those who go completely over the top."

P&O Ferries said: "The move is to try to combat bootlegging. It is a major problem in Dover — it was getting a bit like Chicago."

Booze cruises are big business in winter when fares fall as low as £10 for a car and nine passengers. A million legitimate shoppers are expected to visit Calais next month alone.

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Hague to move private office in power shake-up

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

WILLIAM HAGUE is planning to shift most of his private office out of the Commons to Conservative headquarters in a move to improve party morale and strengthen his authority as leader.

And in a move that will please party professionals, he has promoted Sebastian Coe, the former Olympic champion who lost his seat at the election, to be his private secretary and chief of staff.

The shake-up is seen by insiders as further proof that Mr Hague intends to take more account of the party membership than any recent Tory leader. The move to Central Office is seen as symbolising his desire to listen as much to the rank-and-file as to MPs, who are still blamed throughout the party for the debacle of May 1.

Mr Hague wants to give party activists some 35 per cent of the vote in future leadership elections — and he is believed to favour an early party referendum on the single currency to secure backing for his hardened line of ruling out British membership for at least ten years.

The move to Smith Square is part of the biggest overhaul of the party's organisation since the war. Mr Hague also wants to improve the cohesion of the organisation, and answer complaints that the views of party headquarters are not always taken on board.

The appointment of Mr Coe, who replaces Charles Hendry, another former MP who becomes director of business relations, was praised yesterday by members of the Shadow Cabinet who believe that he can be relied upon to offer sensible, non-ideological advice to the leader. The reorganisation comes as Mr Hague again faces the task of lifting his party after its dismal performances in the Winchester and Beckenham by-elections last week.

Yesterday he was advised by several senior figures that he needs to adopt a more flexible line on Europe of he is to win the next general election.

David Curry, who resigned from the Shadow Cabinet over the single currency stance, said the Tories needed a "broad church" approach on Europe to widen their appeal.

Many traditional Tory supporters might be more open to persuasion on the question of a single currency than Mr Hague believed, he said. "I think people appreciate that the issue is much more complicated than it might at first appear," he told GMTV's *The Sunday Programme*.

"People are much more pragmatic. I find that people want to decide for themselves in the Conservative Party. There is a real appetite for debate."

Now that the Conservatives were in opposition they had the freedom to have a thorough debate within the party and should make use of this. "I don't believe we will help ourselves if we try to prevent the debate taking place," he said.

But Mr Curry criticised the decision of Peter Temple-Morris, MP for Leominster, for *leaving the party. He said:* "I believe absolutely firmly that we have to argue our corner from within the Conservative Party because the party has traditionally been the party of positive engagement in Europe."

The Labour leadership, meanwhile, remains confident that Mr Temple-Morris will at some point join them. He is to take his seat on the Labour benches this week, while sitting as an independent One Nation Conservative.

Sir George Young, the shadow defence secretary and another pro-European Conservative, said on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* programme that he was content with the agreed policy to oppose the single currency at the next election.

"I'm quite happy with where we are now, which is to rule it out for the next parliament."

Members oppose party changes

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE is facing a grassroots revolt over his plan to give members of the Conservative Party a vote in leadership elections.

Four groups of constituency activists have joined forces to challenge the Hague plan, starting with a series of national newspaper advertisements published today. They accuse Mr Hague, who has staked his future on the reforms, of forcing through undemocratic changes, which would have been declared illegal under trade union legislation introduced by the party.

The four groups, the Charter Movement, Party Referendum Steering Committee, Conservative One-Person One-Vote Group, and the Conservative Democratic Movement, which was set up by Peter Gregory, a Yorkshire millionaire, have started a well financed campaign to block the changes. They have demanded that Mr Hague hold elections for the most senior posts, including the party chairmanship, as the price for their continued support.

Eric Chalker, a trustee of the charter movement, said last night: "Trade unions, under the Tories own laws, were forced to ballot the membership on the election of their officers. But the Tory Party, which Mr Hague has promised to give back to the members, is being denied the same opportunity."

TONY WHITE

Alistair Darling, Treasury Chief Secretary, speaking in Eastbourne yesterday

Softer line rejected

Continued from page 1

of the programme is to try to get as many people as possible into work so that benefits can be concentrated on those with the most severe handicaps.

Options under consideration include taxing, means-testing or time-limiting some benefits and replacing others with insurance schemes. The plans have met with opposition from some Cabinet ministers, including John Prescott and Frank Dobson.

This week the all-party parliamentary disability group is seeking an urgent meeting with Ms Harman to express alarm. Lord Ashley, its chairman, said: "The proposed cuts will cause severe hardship and enduring resentment. All disability groups are implacably opposed to a backward-looking revision."

Alistair Darling, the Treasury Chief Secretary, addressed the concerns of Labour MPs in a speech to a Labour European conference at Eastbourne. Making many references to the need for "tough choices and hard decisions", he said that putting the public finances on a sound footing would allow long term investment in health and education as well as delivering stability. "But that prize will only be ours if we make the tough choices essential in government. Facing up to hard choices, setting priorities and sticking to them."

Defending the welfare proposals, he said the key was helping people on benefit to become employed. "The welfare system must be geared to promoting that employability. For too many people, getting a job brings little additional benefit to the family income."

Brown: wants to make it easier for lower paid

Mr Brown's green budget, designed to promote public discussion in the run-up to next year's Budget, signals his intent to make it easier for the lower paid to move into work.

Letters, page 23

Branson hints at deal over Formula 1

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE Government is preparing for compromise over its refusal to ban tobacco sponsorship of Formula One motor racing.

Although ministers say publicly that they will negotiate in Brussels for an indefinite exclusion for Formula One, senior government sources admit privately that a time limit — with seven years the most likely period — will be allowed for the sport to find other forms of sponsorship.

Richard Branson, the Virgin chief and unofficial adviser to the Government on alternative sponsorship, yesterday gave the clearest hint so far that ministers will climb down over an issue that has caused them more trouble than any other since the general election.

Previously he has been strongly critical of the Government's stance. But yesterday, in a conciliatory tone that suggested concessions are in the air, he said that he was sure that a compromise would be reached.

He even suggested the time limit: "Ten years would be a bit long. I think a compromise of something like seven years would be something that most people would be happy to go along with," he said that the time limit should apply to all sports.

Mr Branson said the Government was mistaken in its claim that there was a risk to the jobs of 50,000 workers in Formula One.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour faces crisis over pit closures

The Government will come under pressure this week from MPs, unions and mining communities to prevent the demise of the coal industry.

A leaked paper from the Department of Trade and Industry has revealed that ministers are braced for a series of pit-closure announcements before Christmas. About 5,000 jobs could be lost over the next few months, as contracts expire between between RJB Mining — Britain's biggest producer — and the electricity generators, according to figures based on DTI estimates submitted to the European Commission. Mick Clapham, Labour MP for Barnsley West, who chairs the all-party coal communities group, said: "The Government should consider extending the rolling contracts."

Astronomer burgled

An Omega watch given to the television astronomer Patrick Moore by the astronaut Jim Erwin, who landed on the Moon with Apollo 15 in 1971, was among items stolen from Mr Moore's home at Selsey, West Sussex. A Military Cross awarded to his father in the First World War was also taken. Mr Moore was not at home at the time of the burglary.

Steel fence cuts truancy

A school with one of the worst records for truancy in the country has solved the problem by building an 8ft-high, £35,000, steel perimeter fence to keep pupils in. Teachers claim that it has already cut truancy figures at the 470-pupil Frankley Community High School in Birmingham which, last week, was named as the worst in the city and the fifth-worst in the country for non-attendance.

Sacked postman ruling

Philip Cox, 36, from the West Midlands, who was sacked a year ago because of poor attendance — which he blamed on his asthma — may be offered his job back after a landmark industrial tribunal ruling that his asthma should have been taken into account. More than 700 residents on his round signed a petition calling on the Royal Mail to reinstate him.

House sellers beware

New proposals from estate agents, surveyors and auctioneers would make house sellers responsible for providing the necessary proof that their property was a wise buy. They believe that the shift in onus could limit gazumping while halving the average 13 weeks it takes to complete a purchase. They will lobby Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, over the plans.

'Silent epidemic' threat

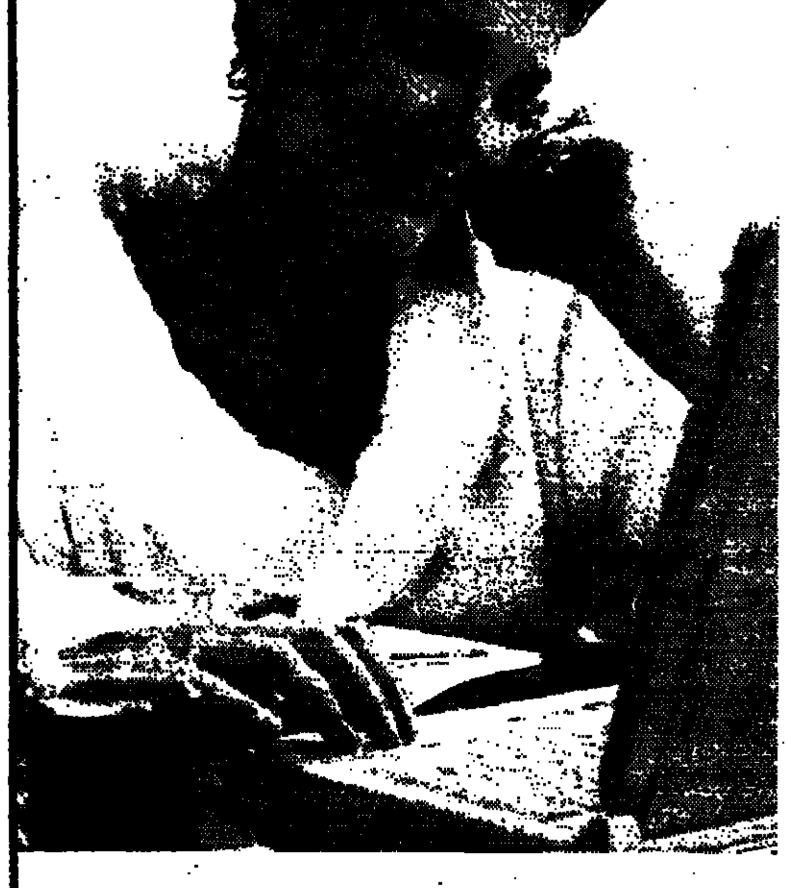
Almost one pregnant woman in five in Britain is infected with genital herpes, an international conference was told. Most are unaware that they are carriers of the incurable illness and can pass it on to their babies at birth. The International Herpes Management Forum in Cannes heard of a "silent epidemic" spreading so fast that up to a third of the population in some areas was now infected.

Pupils try to save school

Pupils at a residential school for asthma and eczema sufferers are planning a sit-in to save it from closing after 40 years. Pilgrims School, in Seaford, East Sussex, once had 65 pupils but now cares for only 17 children. Invalid Children Aid Nationwide, the charity that runs it, said it had to close before Christmas because of rising costs. A parents' action committee has found 46 potential new pupils.

Scout killed at camp

A 17-year-old Venture Scout died when she fell under the wheels of a trailer. Michelle Stanley, from Sellindge, Kent, was part of a group from the First Saltwood Unit from Folkestone, carrying out repairs at the camp near East Grinstead, West Sussex. She was *standing on a tractor*, slipped and fell under the trailer wheels. Two other teenagers were treated for minor injuries.



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Yates denies her lover died in sex game

Police await toxicology reports after INXS singer's body found in hotel, writes **Roger Maynard** from Sydney

THE lawyer representing Paula Yates angrily denied reports last night that her lover, the rock star Michael Hutchence, had died when a bizarre sex game went wrong.

As a distraught Miss Yates flew into Sydney with their daughter it was still unclear whether Hutchence had died of over-indulgence or taken his own life.

The lead singer of the Australian band INXS was found hanged by a leather belt in a hotel room on Saturday. No note had been left, but police found empty alcohol bottles and prescription drugs in the room.

Anthony Burton, Miss Yates's lawyer who said he was speaking on behalf of his client, rejected suggestions that the death was due to the sexual practice of auto-erotic asphyxia. "I condemn the scurrilous and grossly irresponsible speculation and fiction trailed as fact in some tabloids that 'kinky sex' led to Michael's tragic death."

Mr Burton, who broke the news of Hutchence's death to his client at the Chelsea home the couple shared, added: "There is no evidence whatsoever to support this." Police also distanced themselves from the reports.

Anthony Burton: broke news to Paula Yates

Investigators also appeared to be backtracking from earlier suggestions that Hutchence had taken his own life. A spokesman for the New South Wales police service refused to say Hutchence had committed suicide, adding only that detectives had taken away a leather belt for analysis.

The exact cause of his death is expected to be known today after a post-mortem examination and toxicology tests. The 37-year-old's body was discovered at midday by a maid in a suite at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Sydney, hanging by a leather belt from a door.

Inspector Dennis Smith of Rose Bay Police, would only say yesterday: "At this stage we are comfortable there are no suspicious circumstances." The singer had given no indication that he was suidical, the officer added.

Police were anxious to talk to the Australian actress Kym Wilson and her boyfriend, Christopher Stollery, who are believed to have visited Hutchence in his bedroom. Witnesses said the couple joined the singer in his suite around midnight and did not leave until shortly before dawn.

The actress appeared in the soap opera *E Street* and the television drama *Brides of Christ*, both of which were shown in Britain. Hotel records indicate that Hutchence made a series of telephone calls after the couple's departure, including one to Paula Yates. He also phoned a friend about 9am, agreeing to meet her for breakfast. A police spokesman said the friend, whose identity he would not reveal, arrived at an hour later but could not get an answer from Hutchence's room. She slipped a note under his door before leaving.

Detectives were planning to interview Yates, 37, when she arrived in Sydney with her 16-month-old daughter by Hutchence, Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily.

After years of living, as he confessed, a life fuelled by sex, drugs and alcohol, the singer appeared to have slowed up a little. He and Yates, who is divorced from Bob Geldof by whom she has three daughters, were due to marry in January on the South Sea island of Bora Bora.

Nevertheless, the couple's relationship and her split with Geldof had been accompanied by lurid tabloid stories.

The wrangles with Geldof over their children and the house they had shared were acrimonious and legal disputes continue. Hutchence was involved in a clash with photographers who were trying to photograph the family after the birth of their daughter last year. Later there were allegations that drugs had been found at their home, but no charges were brought.

There was speculation yesterday that these domestic trials had depressed Hutchence and there were further suggestions that he was low because the 20-year-old band's latest album had not been a critical success.

Police interviewed Hutchence's father, Kell, who had dinner with his son at a restaurant near the hotel on Friday night. One Australian newspaper reported that the two men and Hutchence's stepmother were seen smiling and laughing during the meal.

But restaurant staff said Hutchence Sr at one stage looked concerned. His father put his hand on top of his, asking Michael if everything was all right and if he was OK," a waitress was quoted as saying.

Funeral arrangements have yet to be determined.

☐ *Additional reporting by Damian Whitworth*

JEFF DARMANIN

Michael Hutchence and Paula Yates in Sydney last year with Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily. The couple planned to marry next year

Kym Wilson may have been last to see him alive

BAND UNLIKELY TO CONTINUE WITHOUT STAR FRONTMAN AND SONGWRITER

INXS: after 20-year career and 11 albums, their latest recording was not a critical success

Michael Hutchence's death will almost certainly spell the end of his band INXS. Not only did Hutchence co-write most of the band's songs but it was his charisma which gave the band its star qualitiy on record, stage and film. History suggests any attempt by the rest of the band to carry on without him could prove disastrous.

The three Farriss brothers — Jon, Andrew and Tim — and bassist Garry Beers may be well advised to round off their career with a *Greatest Hits* album in tribute to their singer but leave it at that. Sources at Mercury, their record label, claim it is too soon to speculate about the band's future.

Ironically, the band are prominently featured in the new action film, *Face/Off* which is currently doing good business around the world. Rock is littered with bands unsuccessfuly attempting to soldier on without their figureheads. Just last week Parlophone Records decided not to release a new single by the three surviving members of Queen because of lack of airplay and weak sales of its parent album, Queen Rocks. *No One But You* is Queen's first track not to feature frontman Freddie Mercury who died of Aids six years ago today. It will probably be their last.

A rare example of dressed up tracks from the vaults proving a critical success has been Jimi Hendrix. The American guitar legend's family issued a completed version of his final album *First Rays of the New Rising Sun* this year which was welcomed by fans and critics alike.

Eye experts dismiss fears on laser pens as hysteria

Ian Murray reports on specialists who say that claims of pain and damage have created a new myth

GROWING public concern over laser pointers, which are alleged to have caused eye damage in a series of violent assaults, was dismissed yesterday by leading specialists.

Professor John Marshall, laser safety officer at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London, said it was "absolute rubbish" that anyone's eye could be permanently damaged by a commercially available laser pointer. The worst that could happen, he said, was a very temporary loss of vision, followed by a few minutes when the eyesight became disorientated.

"These devices are incapable of causing any damage to the retina but because the myth is growing that they can, it is creating an intolerable workload for those of us who know about these things," he said. Professor Marshall, who runs the Ophthalmology Department at St Thomas's Hospital in London, said he was now being bombarded with mail from police, health authorities and lawyers, while the Government was wondering whether the pointers should be banned.

"The whole thing is hysterical," he said. "Doctors refer patients to us, but we are turning them all away." He said that the pointers had a radiant emission of five milliwatts. Even if this was shone directly on to the eye, it caused less dazzle than a powerful flash bulb. While there were many claims for ocular injury, none had been upheld.

"Many individuals claim to have seen a bright light followed by pain or irritation in the eye with redness and headaches. There are no pain receptors in the retina. Reddening of the eye may come from rubbing eye lids, and this is triggered by the patient and not the laser strike. Headaches have no role in laser damage." If irreversible damage occurred, he said, the patient would experience a bright flash followed by a green after-image which would not fade, leaving a permanently unclear area. "Laser pointers used appropriately are not an eye hazard and, even if used inappropriately, will not cause permanent eye damage."

Professor Marshall has sat on the World Health Organisation and International Red Cross Committees concerned with laser safety. Alan Bird, professor of opthalmology at the Institute of Ophthalmology, backed his comments: "There may be temporary dazzle from one of these laser pointers, but that is all."

One victim of a laser-pen attack strenuously denied the claims. Carol Maryan, 35, was driving home through Salisbury on Saturday night when a car of youths approached from behind. As they flashed their head lights and dodged her Toyota Space Cruiser, a red beam darted in front of her eyes.

"There was this red beam. It was going all over the car and bouncing off the mirrors," said Mrs Maryan. She contradicted the assertion that no pain could be caused: "Codswallop. I have had a splitting headache for hours. I can't bear normal household 40 watt lights. I just want to shut my eyes."

An RSPCA spokesman said: "If these pointers can damage a human's eye, they will damage a cat's eye. Even if they do not cause damage, they will cause distress and they should never, ever be shone into an animal's eye."

Secret Lloyd George death plot

By Richard Ford

SECRET government files detailing a plot to murder David Lloyd George are to be released later this week. They will disclose how police became aware that a mother and daughter allegedly hatched a plot to kill the Prime Minister in 1917.

John Grigg, author of three volumes of the life of Lloyd George, said that the former Prime Minister's great-grandson, Robin Lloyd George, had told him recently that he was aware that there had been a plot, but that few details were known. "I will be really interested to discover what these documents tell us about about the background to the incident. It has been talked about, but very little is known officially," he said.

Files detailing the long campaign in the 1950s and 1960s to reform the law surrounding homosexuality and prostitution are also to be released this week. Among other Home Office papers to be published are documents relating to one of the great literary *cause célèbres* of the century when a lesiban novel by Radclyffe Hall was banned after an obscenity trial.

Under a Home Office drive to disclose as many secret records as possible, officials have reviewed many files relating to once-controversial social issues and have decided that many of those reflecting general attitudes towards sexual matters can now be released.

The files on sexual attitudes focus on the mood for change after publication in 1957 of the Wolfenden Report on the law on homosexuality and prostitution. The report, now seen as a watershed in public attitudes to morality, recommended that homosexual conduct between consenting male adults over 21 in private should no longer be a crime.

Lloyd George: target of a murder plot

It also called for increased penalties for street prostitution.

But such was the political climate at the time that the Conservative Government of Harold Macmillan took no action on its main recommendation about gay sex. But in 1959 the Street Offences Act was passed in an attempt to clear the streets of prostitutes though this had the effect of increasing trade in other premises.

It was to be ten years after Wolfenden before the 1967 Sexual Offences Act was passed effectively decriminalising gay sex between consenting male adults in private. Last night Leo Abse, the former Labour MP who piloted the bill into law, said: "These papers will be most interesting if they show who was lobbying against any change and what police and official attitudes were at the time."

هكذا من الاصل

ALL THOSE IN FAVOUR OF BANNING FOX HUNTING RAISE YOUR HANDS.

PHOTO: LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS LTD.

For once, the fox has a chance. On November 28th MPs vote on Michael Foster's Private Member's Bill to ban hunting with dogs. As 73% of the British public support a ban (MORI), we trust MPs of all parties will raise their hands. Or lower their heads.

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Major will try to cut Princes' £8.4m tax bill

The Princess received a £17 million divorce settlement but she had not drawn up a new will by the time of her death. **Alan Hamilton** reports

THE appointment of John Major as legal and financial protector to Prince William and Prince Harry, which was confirmed yesterday, is unlikely to stop a large bulk of their inheritance passing to the Treasury.

The former Prime Minister's task will be to act as an honest broker between the trustees of the estate of Diana, Princess of Wales and the Inland Revenue, but it seems unlikely that even he will be able to prevent the Revenue seizing an estimated £8.4 million in inheritance tax from a legacy primarily intended for the late Princess's two sons.

Mr Major was chosen for the role by the Prince of Wales because of his close involvement in drawing up the late Princess's £17 million divorce settlement last year, and for what the Prince regarded as his discreet and efficient handling of a delicate issue. The Queen has given her approval, and Tony Blair has welcomed the choice.

Full details of the Princess's estate and will have never been disclosed, but she died leaving assets variously valued at between £20 million and £40 million, with the intention that the bulk of it should go to her children. The first act of the Prince and Mr Major has been to appoint an independent firm of solicitors, Boodle and Co, to look after the boys' interests.

Until now the estate has been entirely in the hands of the late Princess's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, who drew up the divorce settlement with Farrer and Co, the solicitors who represent the Queen and the Prince of Wales. The Princess's executors are her lawyer, Anthony Julius, her mother, Frances Shand Kydd, and her sister, Lady Sarah McCorquodale. Because the Princess died young, she did not have time to arrange her financial affairs to best advantage, and her trustees now fear that her £17 million divorce settlement may be prey to inheritance tax at 40 per cent. The Prince and Mr Major considered going to court to have the divorce settlement overturned in order to preserve the money for the boys, but palace sources said last night that that avenue had been abandoned by the estate's trustees, who feared it would not succeed and might look like special pleading by the Royal Family.

The Princess's lawyers had considered a so-called "Barder application", named after a legal precedent in which the courts overturned a divorce settlement because the beneficiary had died much younger than expected.

The 1987 House of Lords ruling holds that in certain circumstances, and provided that third parties are not adversely affected, the order regarding the divorce settlement can be set aside.

The ruling came about as the result of a case known as Barder v Barder, in which a wife killed her two children and then committed suicide shortly after her divorce settlement. Legal sources have disclosed that the Princess's payment was on the basis that her life expectancy would be 86. She was 36 when she died.

Had the application succeeded, the Prince of Wales would have reclaimed the bulk of the divorce settlement and reinvested it in a trust fund for his sons. The move is a recognised tax avoidance practice, and there would have been no question of the Prince trying to evade tax. Although full details of the Princess's will — which was not updated after her divorce settlement — have not been disclosed, it is known that her wish was for the majority of her estate to go to her sons, with the balance in favour of Prince Harry. His elder brother, Prince William, stands to inherit the Duchy of Cornwall, currently providing an income of £4.5 million a year, when his father ascends the throne.

When the Princess's father died, he left her a sum estimated at the time at £3 million. She owned no property, living as she did rent-free in a grace-and-favour apartment at Kensington Palace. Many of the stunning jewellery pieces she wore, including Queen Mary's tiara and emeralds, were Royal Family heirlooms, and under the terms of the settlement cannot be sold. She had an engagement ring which cost £28,500 and is now probably worth ten times that much, and some other personal jewels, including priceless pieces given by Arabian sheikhs.

It is believed that the Princess willed most of her personal jewels to her children, with the intention that it pass on to their future wives.

☐ *Additional reporting by Philip Webster and Frances Gibb*

IAN JONES

The Prince of Wales and his two sons. The two young Princes' share of the divorce settlement will be taxed

People's palace flats may earn £36,000 a week

By Alan Hamilton

PLANS to evict a phalanx of second-division royalty from Kensington Palace and turn the former home of Diana, Princess of Wales into an art gallery and a shrine to her memory could earn millions for the Crown.

The scheme has been floated by Royal Household officials and leaked to test public reaction. It is still a long way from being approved by the Queen, or by a Government which yesterday claimed no knowledge of its existence. But it commands attention because, on the surface, it appears to kill several birds with one stone.

First, it would provide a permanent memorial to the Princess, although whether it would incorporate a shrine to her — perhaps in the preservation of her private apartments — remains undecided.

Second, it would provide a home for the Royal Collection, which at 10,000 paintings, enamels and miniatures, not to mention half a million prints, photographs and a priceless assemblage of antique furniture, is the largest art collection in private hands in the world.

Third, by pensioning off the palace's royal residents, who occupy a range of spacious grace-and-favour apartments, the Queen would be seen to be slimming down the appartus of royalty, which many regard as still too cumbersome, even although minor royals are no longer funded by the taxpayer.

Kensington Palace's occupants are Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, the Duke's elderly mother, Princess Alice, the Duke and Duchess of Kent and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent. Apart from Princess Margaret, who could be offered a home in St James's Palace, the others have private country homes.

The outline plan for Kensington Palace is said to involve renting out some of the smaller grace-and-favour residences occupied by Royal Household staff. Lorna Vestey, a Knight Frank partner, estimated that a good four bedroom apartment within the palace could command at least £3,000 a week.

She estimated that the palace was home to approximately a dozen apartments, with some small houses within the courtyard buildings.

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Court in Ireland lets rape girl seek abortion

By A Correspondent

A PREGNANT 13-year-old Irish girl, the victim of an alleged rape, was effectively given permission to travel to Britain for an abortion during a secret session of the Irish Children's Court.

Her parents, members of Ireland's travelling community, are to appeal against the decision in the High Court and are taking advice from anti-abortion groups.

On Saturday a man in his twenties was charged in Dublin's District Court with having carnal knowledge of a girl under 15.

David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, yesterday described the controversy as an "unacceptable embarrassment", amid political wrangling that could affect Ireland's coalition Government.

The affair has similarities to a case five years ago when a 14-year-old rape victim was allowed to come to Britain for a termination after initially being refused permission to travel under the terms of the Irish constitutional ban on abortion.

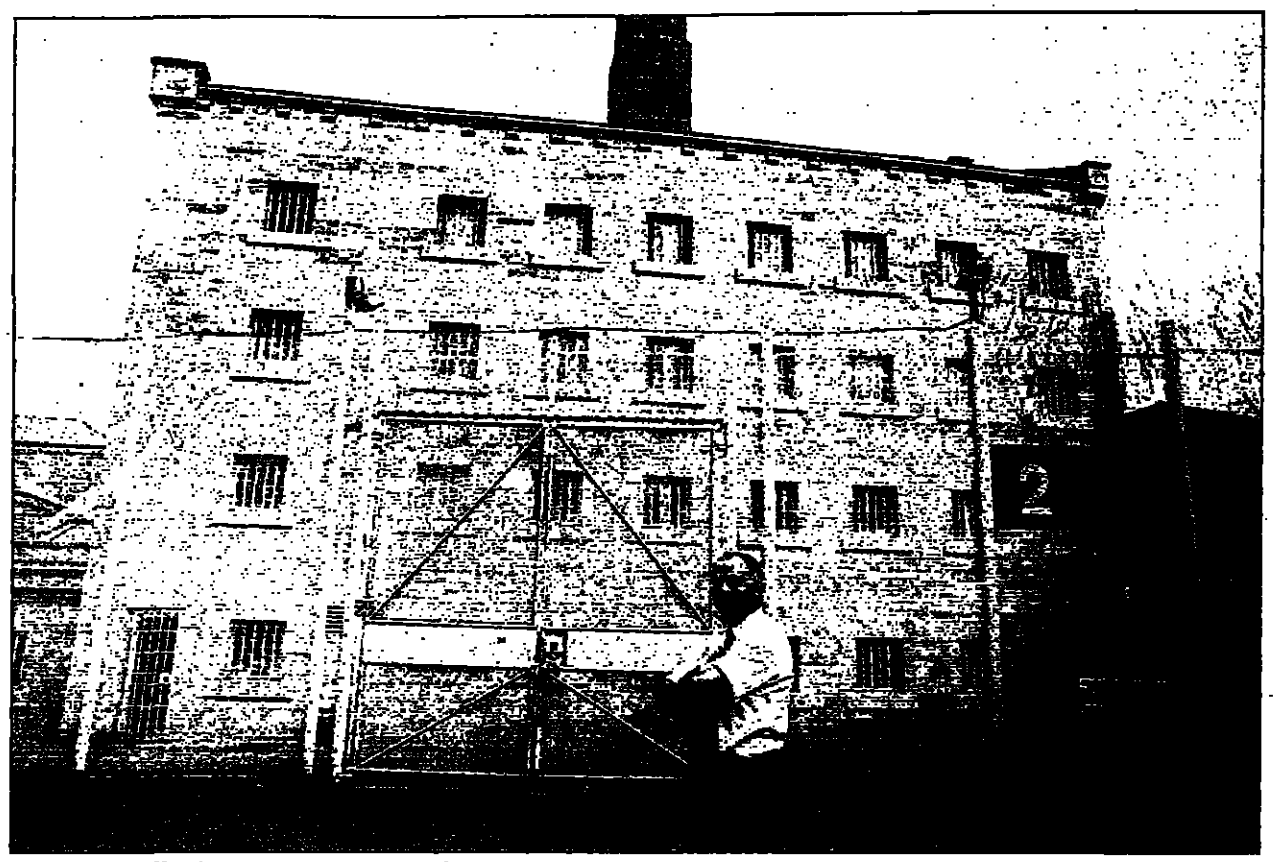
That case prompted referendums to amend the constitution and guarantee the rights of women to go abroad for abortions.

The new case has gone to court because the girl is in the care of Irish health officials, who are barred from assisting towards an abortion. It has led to criticism of successive Irish governments for failing to take steps to regularise the law.

Independent members of the Irish parliament who are opposed to abortion and who support Prime Minister Bertie Ahern's minority Government have warned him against taking action that could make abortion more freely available.

Prisoners need escapist dreams, says governor

By Terri Judd



Niall Clifford at Durham Prison: "If you remove all possibility of escape completely, you also remove hope"

THE man charged with keeping Myra Hindley and Rosemary West under lock and key has insisted that his inmates must keep "some hope of escape". Niall Clifford made his comments after £10 million was spent on improving security at Durham Prison, where he is governor.

"To the best of my knowledge, my staff have identified all potential routes of escape we can imagine," he said yesterday. "But we also recognise that prisoners are imaginative and could have seen a route we have not worked out."

To deny prisoners that glimmer of hope would create an explosive situation, he insisted. He rejected an American system of escape-proof jails where armed guards patrol electric fences: "If prisoners, as a corporate entity, have the impression it is totally impossible — they are hermitacally sealed into this 'horrible place' — that is when it becomes dangerous.

"If you seal a pressure cooker you get an enormous explosion. The issue is not just about escape it is moving their mind towards other things. We do our best to maintain hope of future rehabilitation."

The jail has not suffered any recent breakouts, although John McVicar escaped its walls in October 1968. Classed as a Core Local Prison, Durham is one of five in the country authorised to hold category A remand inmates. Security has been increased nationwide after recommendations in the Woodcock and Learmont reports sparked by escapes from Parkhurst and Whitemoor. An inner perimeter fence, a central locking system and increased vigilance on visitors are part of tighter security at Durham.

Mr Clifford prompted angry calls from local people when he told the BBC1's regional *Look North* programme: "If you remove all possibility of escape completely, you also remove hope, and if you allow prisoners to feel that there is no hope, you end up with a very unhealthy position in the prison."

He emphasised yesterday that it was important to combat depression among the 940 men and women in his care, almost three dozen of whom, as category A offenders, are among the country's most dangerous. Last week the prison had to cope with the apparent suicide of two remand prisoners within four days. Mr Clifford insisted that there was no connection with the increased security.

West was jailed in 1995 after being convicted of ten murders at the Gloucester house she shared with her husband, Frederick. Myra Hindley and her accomplice, Ian Brady, were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1966 for the killings of Lesley Ann Downey and John Kilbride. A Prison Service spokesman said last night: "The Prison Service's duty is to keep those in custody that the courts send to us. However, we would never, ever, suggest that any of our prisons is 100 per cent escape-proof.

"It is not just physical perimeters that prevent escapes, but also security procedures, ensuring people are in the right place, at the right time in the right numbers."

Thirty jails to be built in ten years

By Richard Ford

THE Prison Service is to embark on a building programme that will provide up to 20,000 new places for the rapidly rising prison population.

Thirty sites have been chosen in England and Wales for projects that will increase income for private security firms, which are anxious for a bigger slice of the penal market.The Prison Service's annual report says thattwo or three prisons will be built each year for the next ten years as the service struggles to keep pace with a jail population that is outstripping projections before they are published. The previous Government had estimated that the jail population would reach 74,500 by 2005 but latest forecasts suggest this will be reached in 2002. The figure has risen by 3,400 to 63,500 since the general election.

Although Labour is opposed to private jails, the implications of finding cash to build prisons has forced it to accept that they will be designed, constructed, managed and financed by the private sector on 25-year contracts totalling £250 million. Under this system the Government pays an annual rent but has no capital or maintenance costs.

The Prison Service is investigating whether jails could be built by private industry and managed by the public sector but the idea is unlikely to be viable.

Joyce Quin, the prisons minister, told MPs that seven jails are to open in the next three years, including the Securicor-run Parc jail near Bridgend which opened last week, Group 4's Altcourse at Fazakerley, Liverpool, which opens next month and Lowdham Grange in Nottinghamshire, opening in February. Another four will open in from 1999 to 2000.

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The mugging victim and two of the tattoos that could help to jog his memory

Tattooed women may hold key to amnesiac's identity

DOCTORS treating the victim of a mugging who has lost his memory are hoping that tattoos on his arms will help to solve his identity (Michael Horsnell writes).

The man, who is in Cardiff Royal Infirmary, has the names of six women tattooed on his arms who could be past girlfriends. The names Marian and Claire are on his left forearm, Lucy on his right forearm, Camille and Jenny on his right upper arm and Yvonne on his right wrist.

Speaking from his hospital bed yesterday, he said: "I hope they won't be upset but I cannot remember anything about these women. But I hope they will remember me and tell me who I am. They could be my old flames, girlfriends or wives. I'm just praying they will know who I am. I don't know my name, my job or where I'm from."

Doctors say that apart from the amnesia he is otherwise fit and well after stumbling into the city's central police station 12 days ago. The only clues to his identity are that he is 5ft 7ins, in his mid-forties and has a northern accent.

The man says his last recollection was being approached by two youths who wanted his sports bag. He was punched on the back of the head and woke up up in the street.

"There's no joy in being a mystery," he said. "I don't even know what I'm doing here in Cardiff. I could have a whole family out there."

Dr Raghu Reddy, senior house officer at the hospital, said: "There is no treatment for him. We will just have to wait. Memory can come back suddenly. We hope these names on his arms could be important clues so he can go back to his family for Christmas."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kate's killer may have been a tramp

The killer of Kate Bushell, 14, may have been a tramp living rough near the murder site. Police have found three areas where a rough camp may have been set up.

Kate, right, was ambushed and had her throat cut as she walked a neighbour's dog in a field close to her home on the outskirts of Exeter. Police are investigating whether the killer could have had a military training because of the way the weapon was used and his ability to hide. Detective Superintendent Mike Stephens said: "You would have to know the area. We think it is someone who has been in the area on previous occasions." Police are looking at two other murders elsewhere in Britain some years ago which are similar, although the victims were adults.

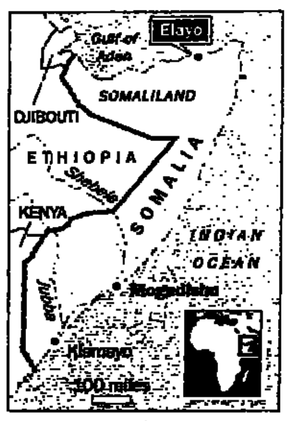
Meeting on vaccines

Parents of vaccine-damaged children will meet Baroness Hollis of Heigham, the Social Security minister, tomorrow in their first formal meeting with a government minister in 18 years. They are seeking higher compensation and recognition that some children have been damaged by MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) or whooping cough vaccines. The Vaccine Damage Act was one of the last pieces of legislation put through under the last Labour Government in 1979.

Swipe for democracy

The 60 members of the proposed Welsh assembly are likely to be the first elected representatives in Britain to vote by electronic swipecard. Members away on overseas business would also be allowed to vote electronically, avoiding their having to be flown home to attend vital meetings. Voting would also be instantaneous. The plans are being studied by the Welsh Office, which says it wants the assembly to be the most modern, high-tech, democratic chamber in the world.

Hostage freedom talks



United Nations officials were working to secure the release of a British aid worker, Dennis Cassidy, 49, from Merseyside, and four UN workers kidnapped on Friday by gunmen at Elayo, on the Gulf of Aden in northern Somalia. Four tribesmen were killed during an attempt by a rival clan to free the hostages on Saturday. The North declared independence from the South in 1991. The other hostages are two Kenyans, an Indian and a Canadian.

Rat numbers 'soaring'

The rat population is escalating because water companies are putting profit before health, environmental health officers claim in ITV's *World in Action* tonight. Britain has an estimated 60 million rats. The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health wants more pest control by water companies and councils. A survey by the Robens Centre for Public and Environmental Health, University of Surrey, found that more than 900,000 homes in England were infested with vermin.

Elderly denied worship

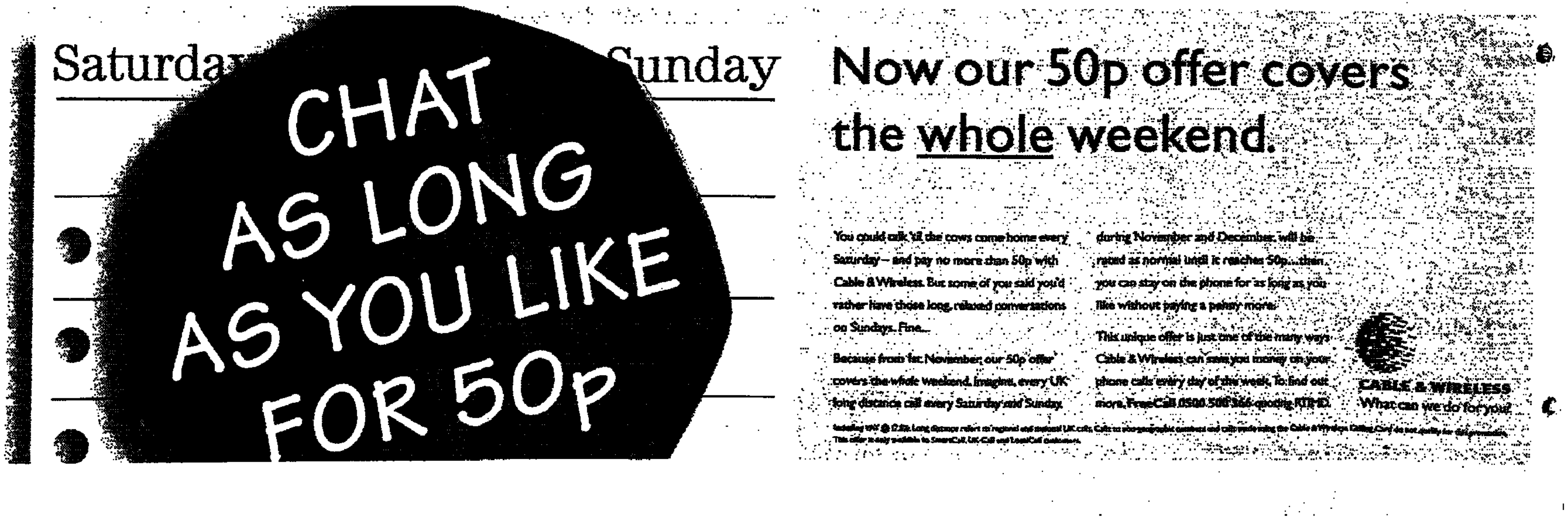
Older people in residential care are being denied the chance to worship regularly, according to a report by the charity Counsel and Care for the Elderly. About 1,500 of the 19,000 residental care and nursing homes in Britain were said to offer no opportunities to worship on the premises and few to visit local churches. In others, most of the services do not take place on Sundays and are "extremely infrequent", with ill-prepared clergy, no proper music and little or no staff support.

Night on the tiles

"Smart" floors, containing tiny electric fields that can sense people walking around and monitor their breathing and pulse if they fall, are being tested in a nursing home by the Finnish company Messet, the magazine *New Scientist* reported. The floor's tiny polypropylene bubbles are said to be more than 30 times more sensitive than other pressure-detection materials, can be laid on concrete and covered with tiles, and will detect someone walking around at night then send out a warning signal.

Call for defence cuts

The strategic defence review, due to be completed by next spring, must produce radical cuts in the number of tank regiments, surface warships and submarines to keep the forces' structure "relevant to the 21st century", says a Fabian Society report by Malcolm Chalmers, a defence analyst from Bradford University. It also suggests upgrading aircraft carriers rather than ordering new ones for an estimated £4.5 billion.



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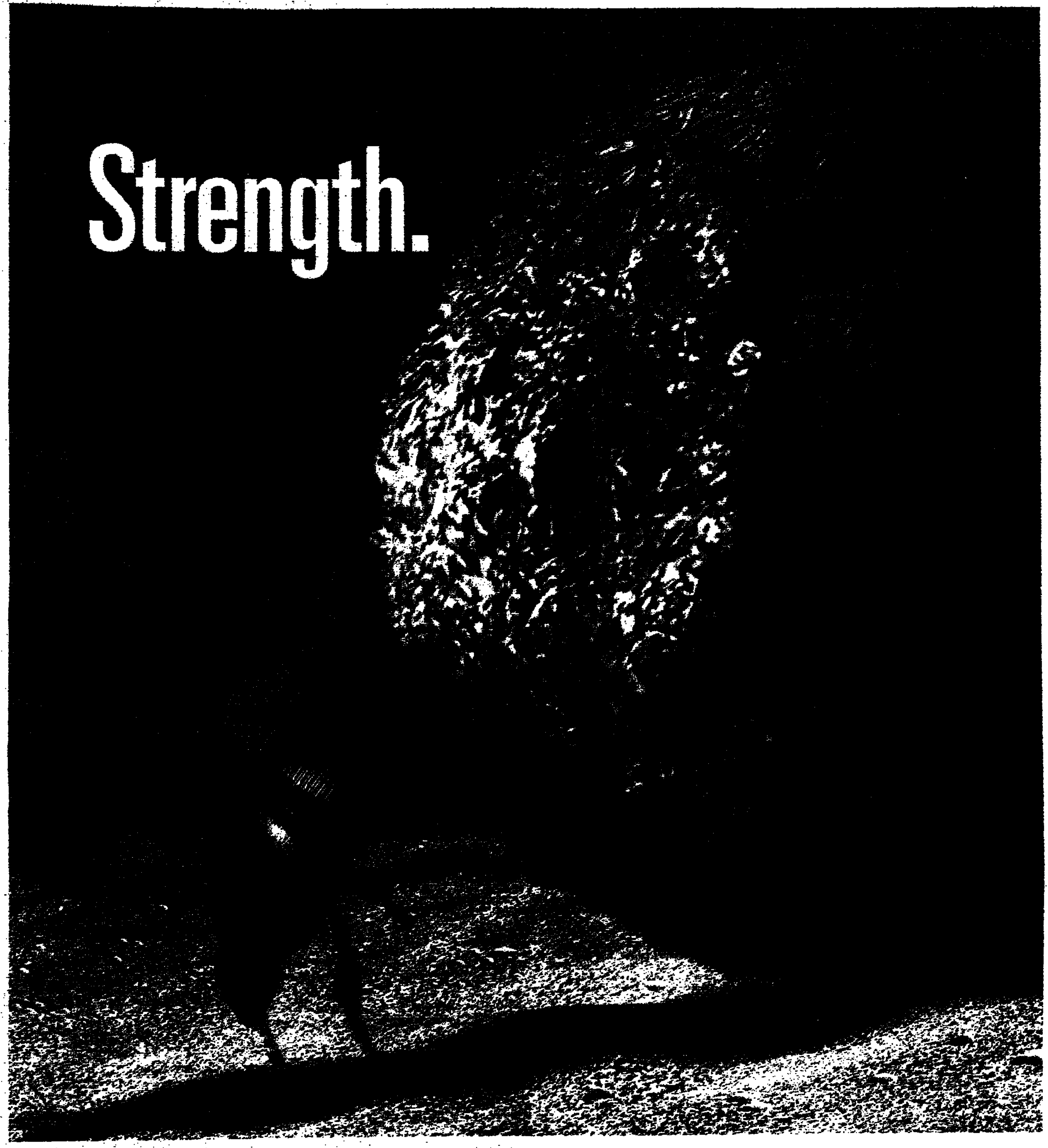

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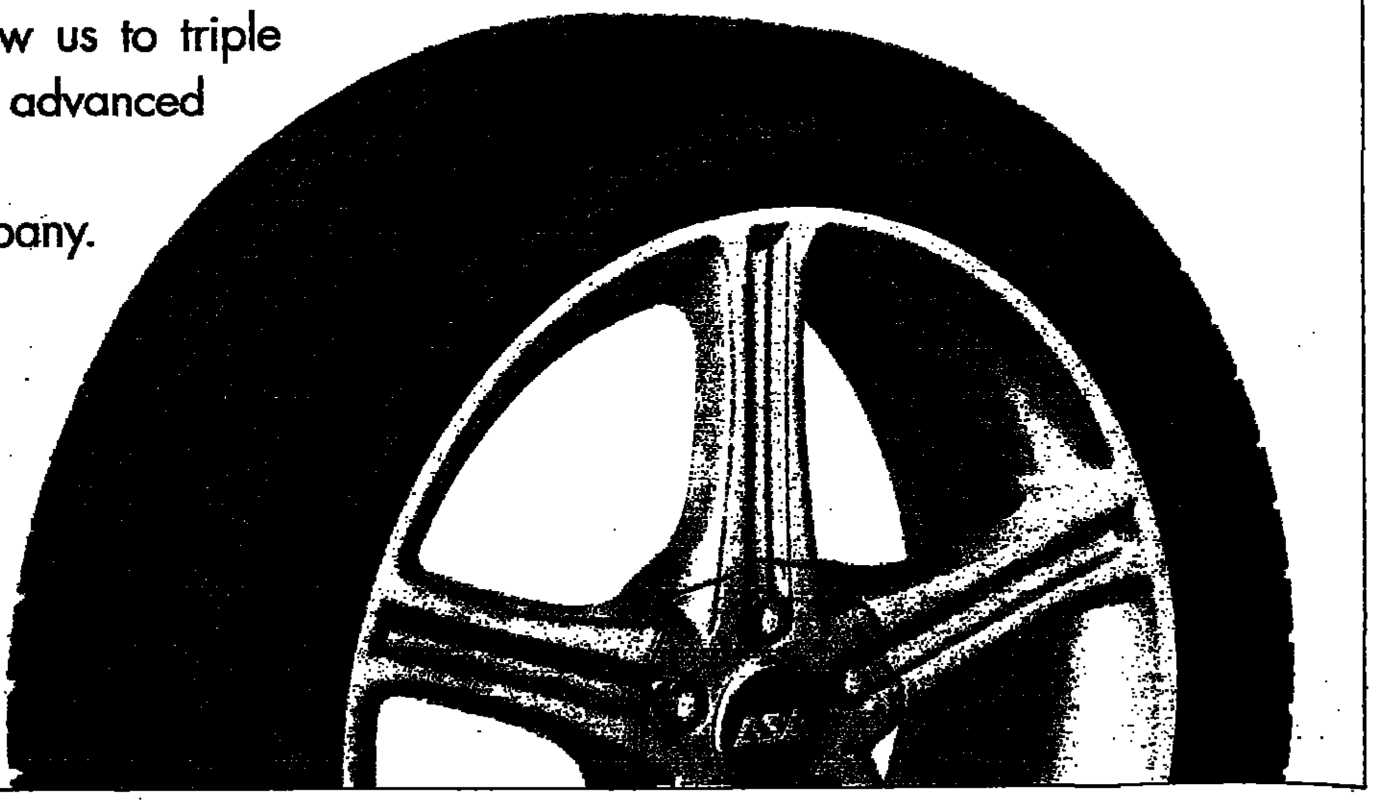

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British ingenuity proves no match for German money

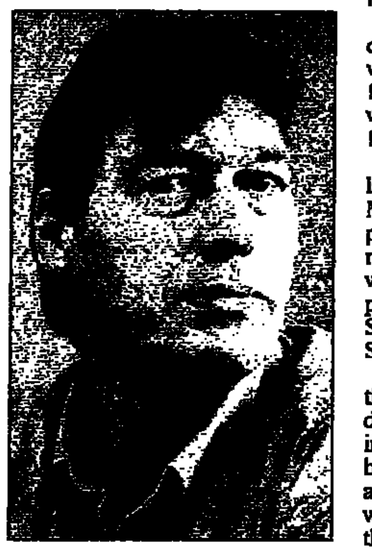
Ten years ago Cliff Ingram designed a three-wheeler. Now Mercedes has had the same idea. **Kevin Eason** reports

A BRITISH inventor was astonished when he saw an idea that he conceived ten years ago illustrated in the press and claimed as a world first by one of Europe's biggest carmakers.

Cliff Ingram designed a traffic-beating three-wheeler for commuters, but failed to find financial backing. His covered-in tricycle was designed to lean through corners to provide a safer, high-speed ride, with the performance of a car packaged into a two-seater body sitting over an engine like a motorcycle.

He was astounded to see the launch of the Mercedes F300 Life-Jet, a two-seater tricycle which leans through corners for better safety and performance — just like his. Mr Ingram, 47, emphasised yesterday that he was not accusing Mercedes of stealing his plans, but said: "I feel angry that I have poured 5,000 hours of thought and development time into an idea I conceived ten years ago — while enduring the slog against prejudice shown towards inventors in this country — only to be pipped at the post by Mercedes."

He had shown his idea — which he calls the Zero Lateral G — to carmakers without success and drew up international patents. He was forced to pull out because he could not afford costs of more than £20,000 and had no funds to finance development of the tricycle.



Ingram: was unable to get backing from carmakers

Even the futuristic shape of the Mercedes version, with a single rear wheel, resembles the scale models that Mr Ingram made several years ago while devising the concept. Mercedes is planning to manufacture the tricycle and says that it could be ready within two years. It will go on sale between £8,000 and £12,000. If the machine goes into showrooms by the turn of the century, the opportunity of a ground-breaking invention will have been lost for the sake of a relatively tiny investment in Mr Ingram's plans.

He said: "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It is possible that it is an accident of fate that somebody else should come up with a similar idea. I worked on this idea for ten years, so I was astonished that Mercedes could come up with the same concept."

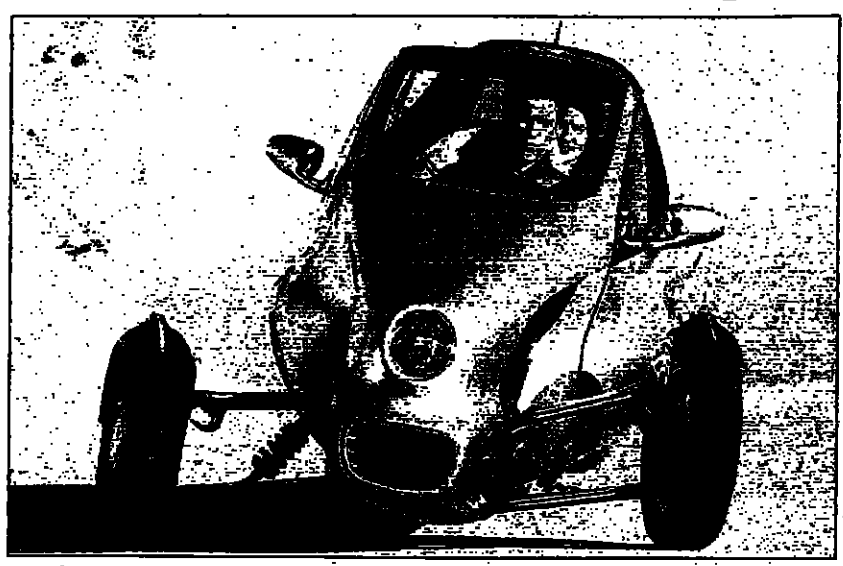
Mr Ingram, who lives in Dorset, says that he is only the latest in a long line of inventors who spot a gap in the market but cannot get backing for their revolutionary ideas.

"Having a good idea is not good enough in this country, because you need the backing to follow through," he said. "With a positive attitude, this country could have launched this machine as the Ingram ZLG. Now the concept will go on sale as a Mercedes, made in Germany."

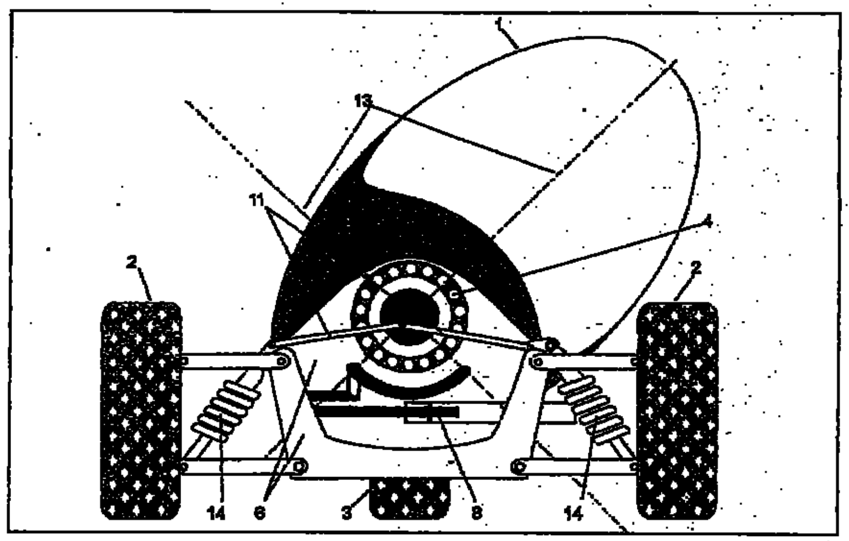
Building a prototype based on designs produced by Mr Ingram would have cost as little as £40,000 and a small assembly line would have cost less than £1 million.

That comparatively small outlay is in contrast to plans by Mercedes to spend millions of pounds gearing up a factory to manufacture the Life-Jet, which won approval in the motoring press when it was first shown in September at the Frankfurt Motor Show.

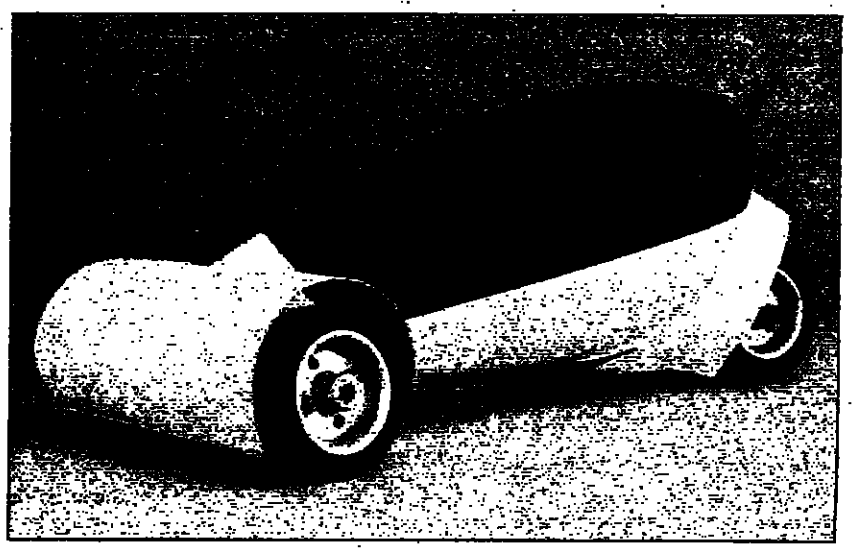
A spokesman for Mercedes said that the Life-Jet's design was devised in the company's studios in Stuttgart. "It is not a new idea but it is one we decided to pursue and we think we have come up with an interesting machine for the future," he said. "We sympathise with Mr Ingram, but his problems are not of our making."



The Mercedes F300 Life-Jet, which could be on the road in two years



Cliff Ingram's patented design for his Zero Lateral G three-wheeler



A model of the Ingram version. A prototype could have cost £40,000

Drivers at more risk from toxic gas than cyclists

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Editor

DRIVERS breathe in up to three times more toxic exhaust fumes than pedestrians or cyclists, a survey says.

The report, by the Institute for European Environmental Policy, contradicts conventional thinking. Pedestrians and cyclists, thought to be the unprotected victims of poisonous gases spewed from the tailpipes of cars and lorries, in fact suffer the least exposure.

Drivers have been seen as cocooned from the worst effects of dirty air by modern cars, their windows shut against the elements and heated or cooled by air-conditioning systems. But cars offer little or no protection from pollution, says the report, because motorists are driving in a "tunnel of pollution".

This is the time of year when exposure is worst, as slow-moving traffic builds up in towns and cities and heater fans draw pollution into the car from outside.

Worst-affected motorists are those who choose to drive in the centre or outside lanes where there is a huge build-up of toxic gases, including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, soot particulates, benzene and other hydrocarbons. That cocktail is blamed for diseases ranging from increased incidence of asthma to heart attacks and cancers.

Cyclists who stay close to the kerb avoid the worst of the pollution because they are not in the "pollution tunnel".

Malcolm Fergusson, a senior fellow and author of the report, said: "There is an increasing body of evidence that shows that they [drivers] are in fact in the centre of the pollution and suffering the worst effects." Typically, a driver sitting in a traffic jam will breathe in up to three times the level of pollutants as a cyclist or pedestrian and about twice as much as a bus user.

The report was drawn up for the Environmental Transport Association, which is to lobby for tighter legislation on exhaust emissions. Andrew Davis, its director, said the findings proved it should be car drivers, not cyclists, who wore protective masks.

Weather halts salvage

THE salvage operation to recover a sunken trawler believed to contain the bodies of four crew members was abandoned again yesterday after continued bad weather off the Scottish coast.

The crane barge *Tak Lift 4* was sent back to the port of Peterhead, but organisers said it would return to the site of the *Sapphire* later this week when weather forecasts predict three clear days.

Steve Chisholm, technical adviser to the Sapphire Trust, which is organising the recovery, said the move was sensible in light of the forecasts.

Alex Salmond, the Scottish National Party leader, said: "This is a setback for the families but we've had them before and overcome them."

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Authors praise British Library's inside storeys

Regular users tell Dalya Alberge that the much-criticised St Pancras building ought not to be judged by its cover

THE British Library's new building at St Pancras, which the Labour MP Gerald Kaufman has called "as glamorous as a public lavatory", was given wholehearted support from some of its regular users yesterday. After discovering the spacious interior and wood and leather furnishings within the drab, red-brick, windowless walls, several remarked that a book cannot be judged by its cover.

As the library was preparing to open the humanities section of its L-shaped reading room today, the first of several staggered openings, Lady Antonia Fraser, David Lodge, Hermione Lee and Kathy Lette were among writers given a preview.

Lady Antonia, who visited with her playwright husband, Sir Harold Pinter, said: "All along, I have been very supportive of this country building a new national library. They have done justice to it, despite incredible difficulties — mainly due to the Treasury.

"The moment we walked across the forecourt, we felt the Paolozzi sculpture was a prelude to something very exciting. Having worked in the Round Reading Room for 43 years — which I neither wish to, nor can, forget — we have to look at the library in a supportive manner and see how it can become part of our national scholarship. I find it thrilling."

Mr Lodge described it as "a very impressive interior" and the actress Maureen Lipman said that "everywhere you look is graceful". Andrew Morton, author of *Diana: Her True Story*, hailed it as "a library for the new millennium" and the writer Ms Lee called it "a great library".

Others have been less than enthusiastic. The Regular Readers pressure group, whose 600 members campaigned against the move to St Pancras, is maintaining its fight to keep 60,000 rare books being moved from the King's Library at Bloomsbury. Brian Lake, the group's secretary, said that the listed building was built for George III's collection, donated by his son, George IV. "Moveables" and "fixtures" are part of listed buildings, he said, drawing on the argument used by those who tried to keep Canova's *Three Graces* in the temple for which they were designed at Woburn Abbey.

The rare books, including a 1669 Book of Common Prayer, a 1607 copy of Ben Jonson's *Volpone* and a 1476 Caxton printing of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, are destined for a massive tower of shelving viewed through frosted glass. Mr Lake said: "We tried to persuade Camden council that they need to look at this more carefully. They said it was not a matter for them, which is strange, as they are responsible for listed buildings. The Georgian Group are also against the moving of the books. We feel there is a legal case to be made here."

A library spokesman said that the collection was donated in 1823 on condition that it remained intact on public display. "They then built the King's Library to house it in that year and finished it in 1827. We got the gift before the King's Library was built," he said. "It will remain on public display."

Even after the British Library received £511 million from the public purse for the new building, delays continue. The main public facilities, such as the exhibition galleries and bookshop, will not open to the public until April 21. Contents are being moved in stages: manuscripts, for example, will be moved in March and scientific books in the summer of 1999.

The operation of moving 12 million books is well under way. But there are still another nine million books to go. By the time the library is fully operational, storage space will be full. But John Ashworth, chairman of the British Library Board, said that no building could be large enough to cope with 8,000 items a day, even with four levels of storage below ground, descending to 110ft. "There is not enough space. Most libraries are full when they are built."

When the library was fully working, he said, books on site would be delivered within 30 minutes, in contrast to waits in the previous building of up to two hours. Earlier this month, he watched as a sophisticated conveyer belt system transported books for the first time along a series of rollers and up a shaft to the relevant floor. After an experiment with lumps of concrete, it worked with the real thing. "It's like a Wallace and Gromit railway," Dr Ashworth said.

FIONA HANSON / PA

Light reading: Kathy Lette and David Lodge at yesterday's preview of the humanities section

Professor urges halt to painting restoration

By Dalya Alberge

THE Professor of the History of Art at Oxford University has called for a debate on the restoration of works of art after the National Gallery cleaned and retouched a Holbein masterpiece that he believes did not require treatment.

Its condition did not cry out for restoration, Martin Kemp said. "If I had been in charge of the Holbein, I would have taken a decision not to clean it."

He believes that discoloured varnish and some paint loss on *The Ambassadors*, the enormous 1533 double-portrait of two diplomats to the Court of Henry VIII, did not justify a cleanse so deep and thorough that it lasted three years. Although details such as the drapery were clearer now, they had not previously been obscured.

Professor Kemp called for galleries across the country to have stiffer tests of whether a work of art was really crying out for intervention. Arguing that returning a picture to how the artist saw it was a "subjective business", he asked: "Why are we happy to leave arms off sculptures when we are not happy to have holes in paintings?"

Professor Kemp, curator of the Leonardo exhibition at the Hayward Gallery, London, in 1989, called for the National Gallery and other institutions to curb their conservation programmes, even though cleaned pictures stood out from those left untouched, such as the National's Claude landscapes. "They are not remarkably filthy, but have yellow varnish," he said.

Emphasising that the National had not "done a bad job or seriously damaged the Holbein", he added: "My criteria for cleaning or restoring is if the structural integrity of the work is threatened and if it is grossly disfigured . . . I would generally not take that to mean dirty varnish or some paint loss with earlier retouchings."

Film takes liberties with Schubert

By Dalya Alberge

A FILM director is expecting to offend Schubert fans with a Channel 4 drama that suggests bisexuality and visits to prostitutes, although there is no real evidence for this. It also shows him dying in a dilapidated hospital, with an eruption of sores on his face. He really died in his brother's apartment, tended by royal doctors, and there is a contemporary description of how healthy his face looked.

Peter Webber, a documentary director making his drama debut, acknowledged that he had used poetic licence: "We tried to make something that is entertainment — sex, drugs and period instruments."

The 50-minute *Double Life of Franz Schubert*, to be screened next month, stars Simon Russell Beale as the rotund genius, who was struck down by syphilis and typhoid and died aged 31 in 1828. Elizabeth Norman McKay, author of an acclaimed Schubert biography published last year, said: "There is a strong possibility that he was bisexual, but at the moment there is absolutely no proof."

Nor is there any evidence, she said, that Schubert and his friend, Franz von Schober, went to prostitutes, beyond his contracting syphilis, and that going to prostitutes was "the normal thing in Vienna". Schober, she said, was known to have released Schubert from his strict lower middle-class upbringing, but that did not mean there was anything sexual between them.

She took particular exception to the film's portrayal of his death. "He died with loving people around him," she said. "He died in his brother Ferdinand's apartment and had the Emperor's own doctors tending him. A violinist came to the house and played Beethoven's late quartet to him — the only one that Schubert hadn't heard. After that, he collapsed and died a few days later."

Another Schubert scholar, Brian Newbould, Professor of Music at Hull University, said of the hospital scene: "I don't see the point of that. Perhaps if I saw it, I'd see a point."

Nicholas Kent, the producer, described the drama as a piece of fiction inspired by Schubert and sourced in the events of his life. It was, he suggested, the fact that his life was so poorly documented that allowed film-makers a certain freedom: "If people have a romantic image of Schubert as a roly-poly composer who ate lots of creamcakes, enjoyed coffee and wrote music as the muse took him, they will be shocked. There was a darker side, which maybe they are not aware of."

Schober, a poet, painter and actor, exerted a lasting influence over Schubert: "He liberated Schubert. Our interpretation is that he did so sexually. The film doesn't say it was a homosexual relationship. What's implied is that it was a sensual relationship."

COMPOSER'S EARLIEST MANUSCRIPT FOUND

The long-lost original manuscript of the first and earliest complete composition by Schubert, left, written when he was just 13, has been discovered among a private collection of the composer's works.

The four pages, heavily annotated with deletions, revisions and corrections, are a draft for the opening of a fantasie for piano duet, consisting of the first movement and part of the second. The manuscript, which is unknown and unrecorded, will be sold at an auction at Sotheby's on December 6 for an estimated £50,000.

The manuscript dates from a period when Schubert's teacher, Antonio Salieri, had already hailed him as a genius. The owners of the private collection where the work has been kept since the beginning of the century knew it was by Schubert, but did not know what the piece was, or its significance.

Five other fragments from the work have been identified, although one has since been lost. The final movement was sold by Sotheby's in 1988.

Indians ask for help to save hero's tomb

By A Correspondent

INDIAN diplomats have asked the Government to end a long-running dispute over the crumbling tomb of a revered Hindu hero. The 160-year-old mausoleum, in Bristol, is said to be in danger of collapsing.

Indian officials have been locked out of the cemetery for the past three years on the anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy's death because of a row over who should pay £25,000 for repairs. Now the Indian High Commissioner has urged Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, to intervene.

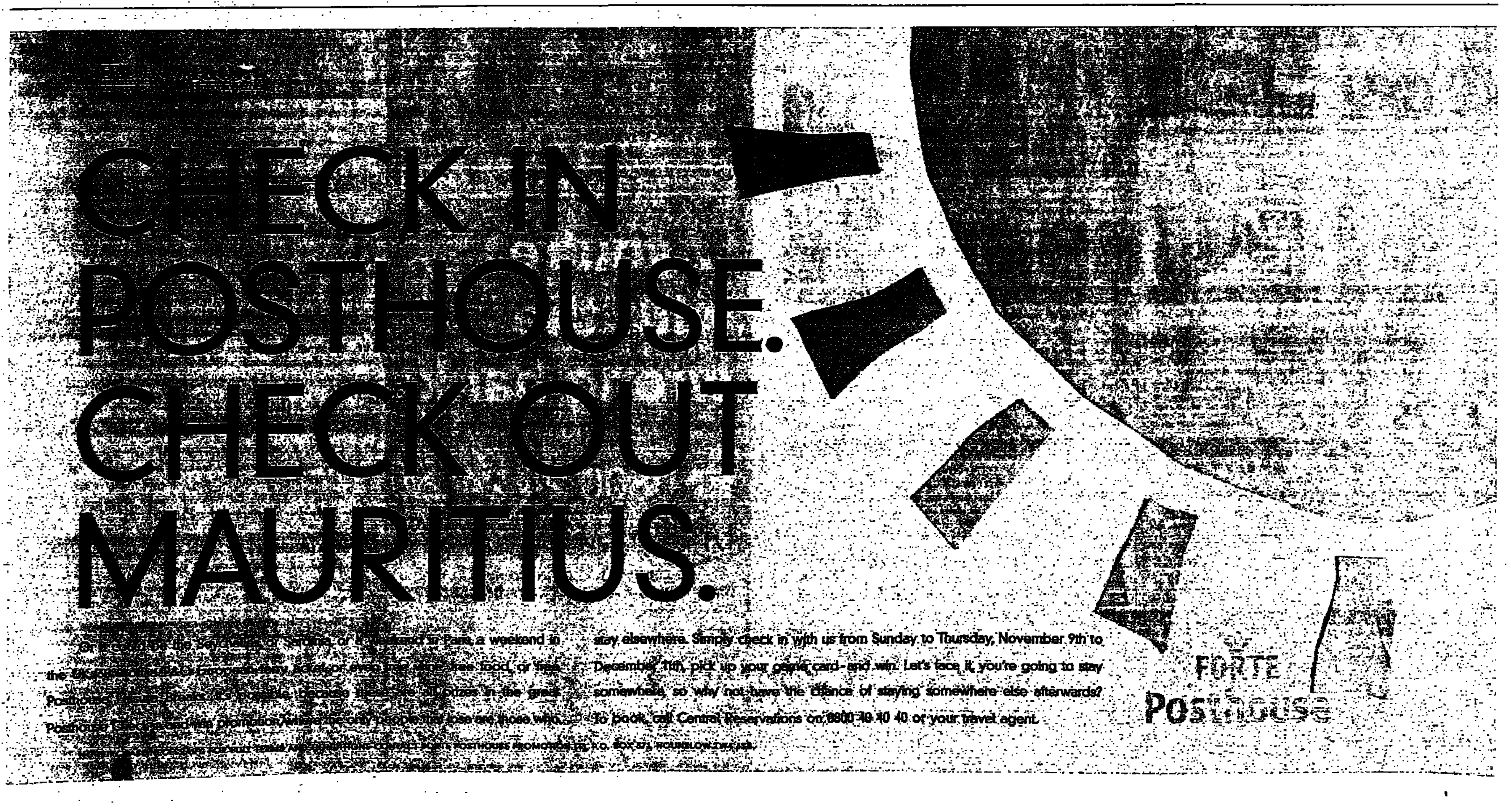
Roy, a leading campaigner for Indian women's rights, died in Bristol in 1833 during a lecture tour. He is venerated as a reformer who founded India's democratic movement and campaigned against the practice of suttee, whereby widows threw themselves onto the funeral pyres of their husbands. Public subscription paid for the 30ft-high mausoleum in the Arnos Vale cemetery in Bristol, which Indian diplomats traditionally visit on September 27, the anniversary of his death.

But since 1994 the cemetery's owners have closed it on that date after a dispute with the Indian High Commission over a £25,000 repair bill for the Grade II listed monument, and fears over its safety. This year a delegation did gain entry, but only after the commission agreed to pay the site owners for extra security staff.

Speaking in Bristol, where he unveiled a new statue of Roy in the shadow of Bristol Cathedral, Dr Laxmi Mal Singhvi, the High Commissioner, said he hoped it was not too late to save the mausoleum. "I have offered to pay for the repair of it."

But Tony Towner, chairman of Arnos Village, which owns the cemetery, said that promises over the years by the commission and the Indian community for money to preserve the mausoleum had never been fulfilled. Mr Towner said his staff had locked the diplomats out on the anniversary because they had refused to keep a safe distance from the mausoleum.

The new statue in Bristol of Raja Rammohun Roy



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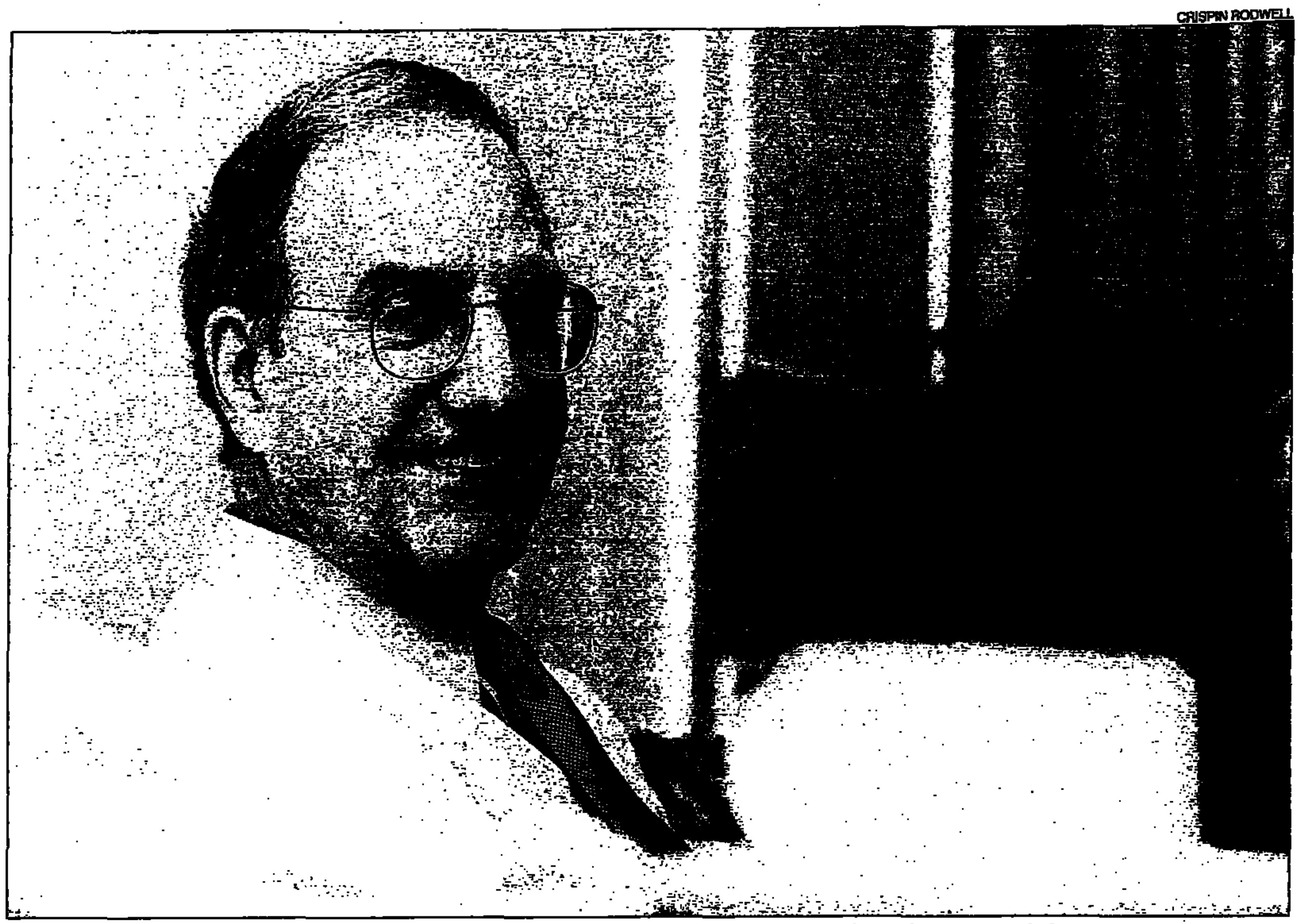
An American in the torture chamber

George Mitchell had intended to quit politics and start having fun, but instead is trying to solve the Troubles in Ulster. **Martin Fletcher** reports

CRISPIN RODWELL



George Mitchell: "I thought it would involve a couple of trips over here and that would be it." Before he knew it, he was talks chairman

GEORGE MITCHELL, the former US Senate leader who chairs the Stormont peace talks, was being interviewed by *The Times* in the lounge of Belfast's Europa Hotel one night last week when the piano player arrived. "Back for more torture?", the musician called cheerily to the 64-year-old American. Mr Mitchell laughed. He received lots of encouragement from ordinary Ulstermen, he said, but the one question they all asked was why on earth he was doing it.

Why indeed? Mr Mitchell has spent almost three years working to keep Northern Ireland's peace train on track despite constant threats of derailment and carriages full of warring passengers weighed down with historical baggage and inclined to yank the communication cord at every opportunity.

This is not his country. He accepts no pay. He spends half his life in aircraft, albeit in first-class compartments, and is separated for days on end from a new wife 25 years his junior and their month-old son. Home from home is a dull little suite at the oft-bombed Europa. Belfast in winter is the sort of place even raffle winners might reject.

Mr Mitchell did have Irish grandparents — his name would have been George Kilroy had his father not been adopted — but he never knew them, has been unable to trace his roots, and had paid just one two-day visit to Ireland before 1994.

The truth is that he had no intention of becoming so deeply involved. When he left the Senate in 1994 and married Heather MacLachlan, a Canadian sports promoter, "I told her I was retiring from politics and I meant it." When President Clinton asked him to spend six months organising a trade and investment conference in Washington to bolster the previous IRA ceasefire: "I thought it would involve a couple of trips over here, meetings with various officials, staging the conference and that would be it."

The six months stretched to a year to cover Mr Clinton's visit in late 1995. Then London and Dublin asked him to tackle the issue of paramilitary decommissioning, on which the entire process was foundering. Prime Ministers and Taoiseachs changed. Before he knew it he was chairman of the talks — fixer, facilitator and arbitrator-in-chief. "I became progressively more involved in a way I didn't seek or foresee," he said.

If Mr Mitchell minds, he does not show it. He is resolutely upbeat, despite constant jetlag. He insists he is grateful for the opportunity to "play a small role in what could be an historic event". But the sacrifices are considerable.

At an age when most men contemplate retirement, he endures the most punishing schedule as he juggles the demands of the talks, his family in Manhattan, law firms in Washington DC and his native Maine, periodic trips to Bosnia for the International Crisis Group, and directorships of Walt Disney, Xerox and Federal Express.

For relaxation he reads. He has just finished a Stalin biography, is starting a history of the Arab peoples, and has devoured two dozen books relevant to the talks. He recently published his own tome on the battle between democracy and communism called *Not For America Alone*.

"It's very difficult. I don't deny that," he said of his lifestyle. "The hardest part is the separation from my family. But I have always worked hard, and if you're really committed to something you can get through it."

That commitment is still more remarkable considering that, after leaving the Senate, he could feasibly have become a Supreme Court judge, Secretary of State, or — best of all for a lifelong Boston Red Sox fan — America's $1 million-a-year baseball commissioner. Baseball's loss is Ulster's gain. Under Mr Mitchell's dogged stewardship the peace process has advanced further than most dared hope. Unionists and republicans are at the same table for the first time.

A mild-mannered, self-effacing man who was once a judge, he injects calm and reason into a cauldron of recrimination and distrust. To a province of naysayers he has bought some proverbial American can-do spirit.

The peace process is now entering its endgame, and much depends on Mr Mitchell's ability to tease out the common ground between partitionists and nationalists. These are "certainly the most difficult negotiations I have ever been involved in", he says. He refuses to predict the outcome, and likens the talks to a cliffhanging television series, but believes the "transcendent factor" is the people's longing for peace.

If this peripatetic American can help to resolve Europe's most intractable conflict, it would be the crowning achievement of a life of public service. But would he have accepted the job had he known what it entailed? "As with almost all things in life," he said, "hindsight is a great teacher."

Sinn Fein leaders to be offered state protection

By Martin Fletcher

GERRY ADAMS and Martin McGuinness are expected to be offered the same protection, including bodyguards and armour-plated cars, as that given to Northern Ireland's MPs, judges and senior civil servants. The Northern Ireland Office will tell Sinn Fein that it is eligible for the Key Persons Protection Scheme after its admittance to the Stormont peace talks and acceptance of the Mitchell principles, according to the *Irish Times*.

The office would not confirm the report, but conceded the principle last week by agreeing to fund security measures for the West Belfast home of Alex Maskey, a Sinn Fein councillor who has survived several loyalist attacks. Mr Maskey called it a "significant breakthrough".

The taxpayer-financed scheme protects those whose deaths from terrorist attacks would undermine Northern Ireland's "democratic framework", the "effective administration of government" or the "maintenance of law and order".

Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness are heavily protected by Sinn Fein, and would almost certainly reject RUC bodyguards, but might well accept enhanced security for their homes and offices, provided it was not installed by the RUC.

Participants in the Stormont talks have meanwhile detected the first real grounds for hope. They were encouraged by last week's surprisingly positive meeting in London between David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister. Ireland has signalled that it is prepared to negotiate on its long-standing territorial claim to Northern Ireland, and Mr Trimble has convinced senior British and Irish officials that he is serious about achieving a settlement.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The young call for a Minister for Youth

Young people want a Minister for Youth and national forums to consult them on government decisions, says a three-year study by the Industrial Society, which canvassed more than 10,000 Britons aged 12 to 25. It calls for more youth centres and out-of-school learning opportunities, smaller class sizes, flexible curriculums and quality work experience. The majority think that marriage is the best way of life, and that it should be harder to divorce if there are children involved.

Long-odds win

Diane Mitchell, 47, of Beckenham, Kent, who lost £20,000 of uninsured jewellery in a burglary, was reunited with the gems after spotting them at a police display of stolen goods at Epsom Racecourse.

Dial a bully

A campaign to expose bullying at work is to be launched next month by the TUC. A telephone hotline (0800 882123) will run for five days from December 1 to highlight the plight of workers who suffer from bad managers.

Survival of fittest

All Royal Navy staff under 50 will have to undergo annual fitness tests from early 1999. Those who fail minimum weight and fitness standards face a compulsory remedial programme and will be sacked if they fail a retest.

Fancy-dress row

Three students who wore Ku Klux Klan garb to a fancy-dress party at the Bradford and Ilkley Community College face suspension. Black and Asian students have complained about their "deeply offensive" behaviour.

In the drink

Three factory workers from McVitie's in Glasgow became the world's biscuit-dunking champions. They ate 37 sodden biscuits in a minute, beating the Leicestershire plant by one. The event raised money for Save the Children.

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Whitehall reveals it is sitting on a fortune

Valerie Elliott previews a new Domesday Book of state property

ASHLEY COOMBES

Seats of power: George II's Chair of State among the other chairs in the Cabinet Office conference room

The Charles Clay clock, valued up to £80,000, and an ornate leg on the board table, value unknown

A ROYAL throne in the Cabinet Office is among an array of antique treasures that will be listed today in the Government's new version of the *Domesday Book*. The gilt chair used by George II is one of thousands of items declared by government departments in a survey of property ordered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The 550-page National Asset Register ranges from art to equipment, land and buildings. It was pledged by Gordon Brown during the election, to be used by ministers to identify new areas for rationalisation and sell-offs.

The total value of Government assets is expected to be more than £300 billion, although many have still to be valued. Senior officials are also examining ways to allow the public greater access to some of the treasures which are hidden away. There are about 1,000 works in the government art collection.

Among the less artistic oddities on the register, the Department of Trade and Industry has admitted owning 1,000 answerphones and 69 paper shredders. The Inland Revenue owns a car park used by Ipswich Town Football Club. The Ministry of Defence has 21,000 cars and vans, out of total government vehicle stock of 80,000.

The Scottish Office has 100,000 hectares in the Highlands and 1,300 crofts. The Foreign Office has 1,400 properties abroad, mainly for staff accommodation. The MoD owns nearly 50 museums and over 60 residences in St John's Wood, one of London's most prestigious addresses. The Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions owns Burlington House in Piccadilly, home to the Royal Academy, while the Department of Culture, Media and Sport owns Trafalgar Square, Marble Arch, Apsley House the Wellington Arch, and 54 statues.

At the Cabinet Office, the throne with fine gilt carving of the Royal Cipher of George II, with cherubs, stands on a dais in the first-floor conference room. In the 18th century, this was the Treasury boardroom, and the throne of Chair of State was used by the Sovereign when he attended a meeting of the board. King George III was the last monarch to do this. The throne is one of the precious items listed without a value in the register.

The same room also boasts the former Treasury board table, with legs carved in the same design as the throne. The top is covered with leather and stamped with an elaborate design incorporating the rose, thistle and shamrock. The value is noted as "unknown, but considerable".

A bill from 1739 records a charge of 10/6 by Robert Sapp, the upholsterer, for "cutting the table in the boardroom lower" and five guineas "for making seven waistcoat draws with seven strong mortise locks with brass escutcheons and keys different".

The room, decorated in sage-coloured damask, also houses eight original Treasury board chairs, each valued at £30,000. Another rare find in the Cabinet Office is a clock made by Charles Clay, appointed in 1721 to maintain official clocks by the former Board of Works. It is valued at £60,000 to £80,000. Made of ebony and secured on a plinth, it stands over 6ft tall and features two dials, one showing the months and weeks and the other showing the time.

The Cabinet Office also lists 750 books in the Prime Minister's library — mainly presented by ministers on taking office.

Vaccine recipe is eggs and bananas

By Michael Hornsby

BOILED eggs could soon offer a pain-free vaccination against common illnesses such as flu, mumps and measles, according to American researchers.

The "smart" egg is the latest development in edible vaccines, aimed at revolutionising disease prevention, particularly in the Third World, where mass immunisation is costly and difficult.

Egg Innovations, of Port Washington, Wisconsin, hopes to have eggs with antibodies available within 18 months. The technique involves injecting hens with antigens, the substances which trigger production of antibodies to block the spread of infection. Their eggs could be the first edible vaccines that can be cooked or processed.

Other scientists, however, are sceptical about how long the "passive immunisation" achieved by transferring antibodies would last, and question whether the antibodies could survive cooking. Biotechnologists at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, at Cornell University in New York State, are genetically engineering bananas to deliver a mixture of vaccines instead.

Bananas are the ideal choice, according to Charles Arntzen, president of the institute, because they are plentiful, cheap, tasty and eaten raw. In purée form, they can be fed easily to babies.

BBC may behave badly for Christmas

By Raymond Snoddy

ALMOST a month before Christmas, the BBC has yet to decide on its comedy special for the big day. The choice is between *The Vicar of Dibley* and *Men Behaving Badly*.

The festive special of the politically incorrect *Men Behaving Badly*, which stars Martin Clunes and Neil Morrissey, is being tipped as the season's big audience winner, but it may not be thought appropriate for Christmas Day compared with *The Vicar of Dibley*, starring Dawn French.

The BBC has been left with a huge gap in its listings because of the non-appearance this year of *Only Fools and Horses*. Last Christmas, the final three-part series of the comedy produced record audiences that peaked at 24.35 million. Peter Salmon, the new BBC1 controller, is hoping he can maintain the corporation's traditional Christmas dominance with comedy specials of many of its other hit shows, including *One Foot in the Grave*, *Mrs Merton* and *Birds of a Feather*.

There will also be television premieres of the films *Forrest Gump*, *The Flintstones* and *The Mask*, and an adaptation of Wilkie Collins's *The Woman in White*, starring Tara Fitzgerald and Ian Richardson.

BBC2 highlights will include a film version of *Madam Butterfly*, the new Royal Opera House production of *The Merry Widow* and a season of films by the late James Stewart, including *Mr Smith Goes to Washington* and *The Philadelphia Story*.

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Officials struggle to save tourism

Cairo: Businessmen and officials met here yesterday to discuss ways of helping Egyptian tourism to recover from the recent killing of 58 foreign visitors by Muslim militants.

The attack was the deadliest in a five-year campaign aimed at toppling the country's secular Government. The total death toll was 68, including four Egyptians and the six gunmen.

The effect on tourism, which annually earns nearly £1.8 billion, was devastating. Many hotels and restaurants in Luxor have begun laying off employees.

One travel agent reported that Nile River cruises in the area had been cancelled for lack of custom. Mahmoud Salem, of Egypt's Tourism Federation, said yesterday's meeting would make recommendations to the Government to help the industry revive. *(AP)*

Britain 'protecting Egyptian militants'

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

PRESIDENT MUBARAK of Egypt attacked Britain yesterday for giving shelter to fugitive Islamic extremists and thus encouraging attacks such as the Luxor massacre last week in which 58 tourists died, six of them British.

"If you do not want your sons to be killed, why do you protect killers?" he asked angrily when opening a museum in the winter resort of Aswan.

"There are people, who carried out crimes and who were sentenced [in Egypt], who live on British land and in other states such as Afghanistan," added the President, who narrowly survived an ambush by Islamic militants in Ethiopia in 1995 and who is accused by the fundamentalists of heading an "apostate regime".

His comments came after similar accusations were made in private to the British Embassy in Cairo by an Egyptian Government that has provided documentary evidence to show that large sums of cash are routed through London to the main rebel group, al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (The Islamic Group), which claimed responsibility for the Luxor killings.

Similar accusations of Britain being used as a centre by exiled militants to mastermind terrorist operations in the Middle East have been made by the right-wing Government of Israel, which alleges that London is a centre for money-laundering for groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

In addition to money, often sent in the form of donations supposedly raised for the families of prisoners, exiled militants have been accused of using Britain as a base from which to send instructions via the Internet to terror cells in the Middle East.

Days before Mr Mubarak's accusation, evidence of large sums of money being sent from Britain to Muslim extremists encouraged Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to pledge an urgent review of anti-terrorist legislation. British government sources said yesterday that it would deal with the twin issues of political asylum and fundraising.

"There is a very serious problem of people from abroad, particularly from the Middle East, seeking to use this country as a base, on the whole not for organising terrorism abroad, but for financing it or for seeking support for it," Mr Straw said.

Followers of Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, a London-based opponent of the Mubarak regime, are alleged to have contributed £2.5 million for the families of 30,000 jailed militants in Egypt, where Muslim extremists have been fighting since 1992 to overthrow Mr Mubarak. Earlier this year the sheikh helped to organise a show trial of the Egyptian leader in Trafalgar Square, after which he was "sentenced to death".

Yesterday Mr Mubarak, who dismissed his Interior Minister over security lapses exposed by the Luxor massacre, admitted that mistakes had been made, but claimed that without the help of exiled militants, such as those allegedly living in Britain, such attacks would not happen.

British sources said that one problem facing the Government was dealing with individuals who would face the death penalty if returned to their country of origin. More than 90 militant have been sentenced to death in Egypt since 1992, many by military courts from which there is no right of appeal. About 50 of those have been executed.

A slip of paper found on the body of one of the six attackers who murdered 58 tourists and four Egyptians at Luxor's Temple of Queen Hatshepsut read: "We are at your service, Mustafa Hamza." This referred to the military leader of al-Gamaa who is believed by some to have ordered the massacre from exile in Afghanistan.

AMR NABIL / AFP

Mubarak views a Nubian statue at the new Nubia Museum in Aswan yesterday

London is not terror haven, say ministers

The Government is seeking ways to tighten the law, **Michael Binyon** writes

THE Government yesterday denied President Mubarak's accusation that Britain was a haven for Islamic terrorism.

The Foreign Office said that the Government unreservedly condemned terrorism and took the threat from Muslim radicals very seriously. "We are strongly committed to taking action against anyone who uses the UK as a base for terrorist activities," an official said, adding that Britain's record was good compared to other countries'.

However, the Government is urgently seeking ways to tighten the law to prevent Islamic exiles and asylum-seekers from using Britain to promote action against friendly governments. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is to begin consultations in January on two specific new laws bringing in a ban on fundraising in Britain for terrorist groups and making it an offence to conspire to plot terrorism overseas.

Mr Straw said in a radio interview last week that he would not propose the ban on incitement to terrorism demanded by many foreign governments. This was because it would clash with the right to free speech and there were problems of definition. He said that such a law could have been used to stop anyone advocating freedom for Nelson Mandela. The Government is also looking at a proposal to proscribe terrorist organisations. This clear break with past policy would outlaw the Kurdish Workers' Party, the PKK, for example, which is already banned in Germany and several other European countries but not in Britain. Turkey has often called for such legislation, but until now officials have said a blanket ban would only drive extremists underground.

In the past two years Britain has been increasingly embarrassed by the large number of Islamic extremists coming here. Many governments, including those of Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Turkey, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, have denounced their presence in Britain and called for tighter laws. Unlike almost all other European countries, Britain does not forbid foreign exiles from engaging in politics provided they do not break British law. At present, moreover, the law does not specifically outlaw masterminding terrorist activities overseas. Conservative ministers tried last year to introduce a law similar to Mr Straw's proposal. That was defeated in the Commons because it also made incitement an offence and many Labour MPs thought this damaged free speech.

There are at least 15 extremist groups in Britain seeking to overthrow established governments in the Muslim world. They also oppose the Middle East peace process, denounce current rulers and want all secular governments overthrown and Islamic states established. In September last year they proposed a huge rally in London to which many overseas militant Islamists were invited.

The Egyptian Government issued a formal protest and summoned the British chargé d'affaires in Cairo to demand an explanation. Algeria and Tunisia also voiced their concern. The Government publicly denounced the rally, but was unable to ban it. It gave a warning, however, that anyone who incited racial hatred or called for assassinations would be prosecuted. In nthe event, the rally was cancelled because organisers could not find insurance cover.

John Major promised two years ago that the Government woud crack down on Islamic radical exiles in Britain, many of whom seek support from British Muslims. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, promised Arab ambassadors in London last week that the Government would continue to take a tough line.

France has criticised Britain for allowing Algerian Islamist leaders and suspected terrorists to come here. Britain promised that the Special Branch and MI5 would step up their observations and monitoring of terrorist supporters and those helping the Armed Islamic Group. Last year police arrested several Algerians wanted in connection with the bombings of the Paris Metro.

The Conservative Government introduced a new instrument in the United Nations last year making the support of terrorism or past terrorist connections a valid reason not to accept asylum-seekers and there has been a clear new caution among well known dissident exiles, including Muhammad al-Masari, the Saudi physicist who has led a campaign against the Saudi Royal Family. He has extraordinary permission to remain here. But his case highlighted the Government's dilemma about what to do with figures wanted in their own country but who commit no offence while in Britain.

> ‘We are all committed to action against anyone using the UK as a terror base’

al-Masari: case shows Government's dilemma

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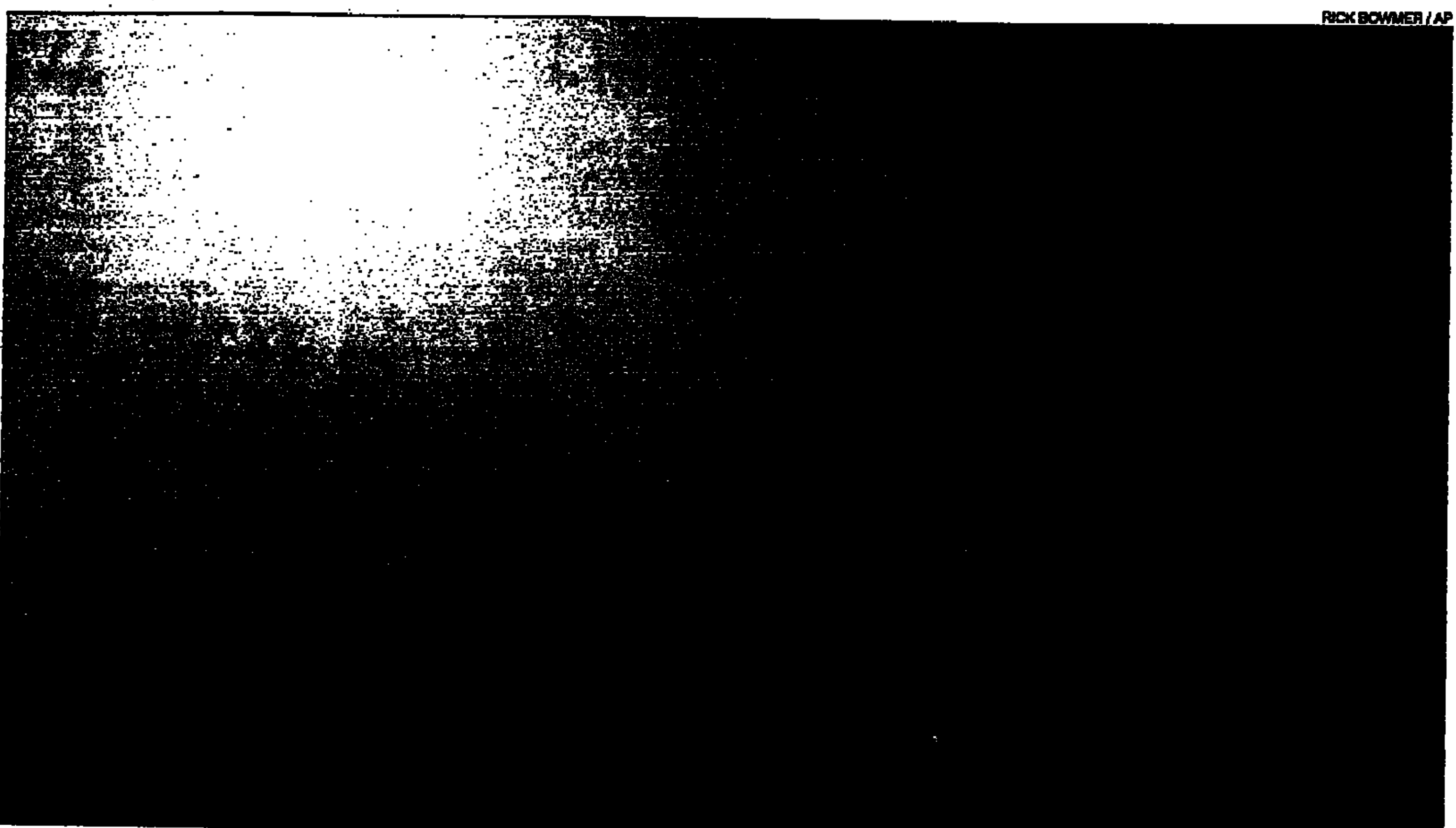
Lieberman: an abrasive Russian-born aide who became "tired of being everybody's punchbag"

RICK BOWMER / AP



An Israeli soldier stands guard atop a mosque in the Muslim quarter of east Jerusalem yesterday as Binyamin Netanyahu made a defiant visit to where Gabriel Hirschberg, a religious student, was shot. The Prime Minister promised more east Jerusalem settlements in response to the killing

Netanyahu isolated as aide quits

Prime Minister's adviser is first victim of party revolt, says **Christopher Walker**

THE closest adviser to Binyamin Netanyahu resigned yesterday, further isolating the embattled Israeli Prime Minister.

Avigdor Lieberman, director-general of Mr Netanyahu's private office since he came to power in June 1996, was the first casualty inside the ruling Likud Party of a revolt that erupted last week while the Prime Minister was visiting Britain and America. Some middle-ranking members of the party plotted to replace Mr Netanyahu, but their plot failed.

The Russian-born Mr Lieberman, whose abrasive style earned him many enemies, bore the brunt of criticism from ministers and disgruntled Likud politicians over a decision by the party's pro-Netanyahu central committee to abolish primary elections to select candidates for the Knesset. He was widely seen as the moving force behind the controversial change that provoked a party mutiny over the perceived attempt by Mr Netanyahu to sieze more power and to ensure that he would be nominated if new elections are forced before 2000, the scheduled date.

"[Lieberman] was tired of being everybody's punching bag," said David Appel, a Likud activist close to the Prime Minister's former chief of staff. A statement issued on behalf of Mr Netanyahu, who has recently surivived a number of political storms, said: "On a personal level I feel great sorrow over the departure of a true and loyal friend who stood at my side for many years."

Political commenators said the resignation would increase Mr Netanyahu's political isolation at a time when his style of government and his attitude to the peace process is coming under heavy fire at home and abroad.

Israel Radio reported yesterday that Ehud Barak, the Labour Opposition leader, had acheived an unprecedented 10 per cent lead over Mr Netanyahu in the latest opinion poll, but that Mr Netanyahu retained a commanding lead inside his own party, having more than double the support of Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, who is his nearest Likud rival for leadership.

The public uproar over abolishing the Likud primary elections forced Mr Netanyahu into an embarrassing about-face last Thursday, when he announced that he would instead submit the issue to a referendum of Likud's 200,000 members. That move is in its turn being challenged by party members who supported the change.

The three middle-ranking Likud members named as last week's plotters are Ehud Olmert, Mayor of Jerusalem, Dan Meridor, a former Finance Minister, and Benny Begin, a former Science Minister. A fourth potential rebel, Limor Livnat, the Communications Minister, yesterday, denied press claims that she was resigning to join the malcontents.

Mr Netanyahu's latest political blow came as Israeli papers reported unprecedented antagonism to him inside the Clinton Administration. *Haaretz*, the Tel Aviv daily, quoted aides of President Clinton as claiming that he had "lost all faith" in the Israeli leader because of his hard line over the peace process.

The aides were quoted by the paper as outlining Mr Clinton's frustration that the Israeli Prime Minister's stance on the twin issues of Jewish settlement building and further Israeli military withdrawals in the West Bank had hampered American efforts to build a new coalition against Iraq.

Russian setback sparks new Iraq fears

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A NEW confrontation with Iraq was feared yesterday after Russia failed to win United Nations support for the concessions it had promised Baghdad to defuse last week's armed stand-off.

President Clinton rebuffed an appeal by President Yeltsin for the relaxation of UN sanctions and the rapid conclusion of UN weapons inspections. "I understand President Yeltsin's position and I thank him for the work they did to end the crisis, at least temporarily," Mr Clinton said. "We hope it's ended permanently, but we're not sure."

Their 40-minute telephone conversation on Saturday came after an unsuccessful attempt by Russia to restructure the UN Special Commission (Unscom) set up after the Gulf War to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction. At an emergency meeting of Unscom's advisory council on Friday, Russia had proposed closing the UN investigation into Iraq's banned nuclear and ballistic missile programmes as well as promising an early end to the chemical armaments inquiry.

Russia's representative also called for new non-American officials to work alongside Unscom's American deputy chairman and for more non-Americans to serve on inspection missions. Meeting until past midnight, Unscom commissioners rejected almost all the Russian plans.

An eight-page report presented to the Security Council on Saturday in effect endorsed the British and American view that Iraq had a long way to go to comply with the disarmament effort, on which sanctions lifting depends. In a clear challenge to Iraq, it proposed adding fixed-wing aircraft and night-time surveillance flights to the UN's helicopter fleet and its American-owned U2 spy plane.

Weapons inspectors resumed visiting sites where they maintain video cameras, air samplers and other monitoring equipment. New teams will arrive soon to restart spot inspections.

In another sign of a possible new confrontation, William Cohen, US Defence Secretary, yesterday demanded unfettered access to President Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces.

Lebanese shells kill nine

Marjayoun, Lebanon: Lebanese guerrillas shelled a village near the Israeli border yesterday, killing at least nine Lebanese — including a five-year-old girl — and wounding several others, six of them seriously, security officials said.

About 25 shells landed in Beit Lif, a Shia Muslim village in Israeli-occupied south Lebanon. After the attack, for which no group claimed responsibility, an exchange of shellfire between the Israeli forces and Lebanese guerrillas operating in plantations south of the port city of Tyre wounded some Lebanese civilians.

The security officials said Israeli artillery shelled suspected guerrilla hideouts near the market town of Nabatiyeh and Israeli jets fired three missiles at suspected guerrilla infiltration trails near the villages of Zibqine and Jebal al-Boutom, facing the occupied zone. There were no casualties. *(AP)*

Three held over 'magic' money

Abu Dhabi: Police in the United Arab Emirates have arrested three Africans for embezzling money by claiming to be able to multiply cash by magic, *Al-Bayan* newspaper reported.

The three were held after receiving large sums from victims. Police in nearby Dubai report a surge in such crimes, mostly by Nigerians and Sudanese. *(AFP)*

Sanctions must stay, says Cook

London: Britain remains very worried that Iraq is still producing weapons of mass destruction and will not support the lifting of economic sanctions, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday.

Reports from Iraq showed that "Saddam Hussein is still producing enough anthrax to fill two missiles every week", he told GMTV's *The Sunday Program.*

Iraq ordered the expulsion of all American weapons inspectors on October 29 after United Nations monitors issued a report saying that Iraq was hiding weapons. Baghdad accepted the return of the American inspectors this week in a Moscow-brokered deal in which Russia pledged to work toward relaxing UN sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Mr Cook said there was no question of sanctions being lifted, despite Russia's pledge. Moscow was partly motivated by the "very large debt owed to them by Iraq", he explained. "They can't get that repaid until sanctions have been lifted. Sanctions can only be lifted when Saddam Hussein complies with the UN resolutions, in particular when he stops trying to develop weapons of mass destruction." *(AP)*

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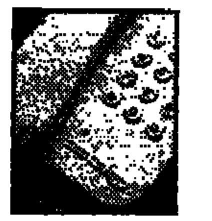

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Kohl's future may hang on tribal loyalties and World Cup glory

INSIDE GERMANY

BY ROGER BOYES

Football wins votes. But can the German team play well enough to save *Helmut Kohl*, the Chancellor? After the critical euro decision next spring there will be some bumpy months before the election in September. Herr Kohl will need a supportive burst of football fever after the World Soccer Championships if he is to avoid permanent relegation.

The latest opinion polls *indicate a melting of opposition* to the euro, much to the Chancellor's relief. He has always placed his bets on such a swing even though the pollsters told him that two thirds of the nation were dogged in their resistance to abandoning the mark.

Herr Kohl understands the German psyche. Public opin*ion is not shaped by debate,* even along Hegelian lines (Thesis: the euro brings Europe together. Antithesis: *but the euro destroys the* mark. Synthesis: the euro has to be identical to the mark). Rather, the public is swayed by a sense of certainty emanating from the top; the will of the political class not only guides but also replaces the will of the people. Because Germans are sure the euro will go ahead whatever they think, they express themselves in favour.

Even so, the election campaign will be full of anger and suspicion. The Chancellor is happiest playing the *populist card, but there are* no easy votes to be won on the euro. If Italy is included in the first wave, if the mark is *somehow equated with the* lira in the German public mind, then Herr Kohl will take a battering, especially from the right flank. So the Chancellor is counting on a golden goal finish.

On July 12, the finals of the World Cup will be played in Paris. Germany has to win — football pride replacing currency pride — and Herr Kohl has to be there to embrace, on television, Berti Vogts, the national coach. Herr Vogts is a *stalwart Christian Democrat,* a close ally of the Chancellor even to the extent of appearing in advertisements for the euro.

Some good economic figures (growth will be strong by the summer), a bit of bungling on the part of the opposition Social Democrats as they struggle to find an official challenger and a few spectacular goals in Paris may be enough to divert attention from the employment figures, the euro-fears and the mess of tax reform.

The logic is simple: football unlocks patriotic sentiments and these always benefit the Christian Democrats. Herr *Kohl tried the same tactic* during the European championships. If Germany plays well, it is because it is well captained and well trained, he told a television interviewer during a break in the championships.

It does not need much imagination to work out the political message: *Herr Kohl* sees himself as both the skipper and the coach of the German nation. The Bavarian Christian Social Union, sister to the Christian Democrats, already plans a series of football parties throughout the election campaign in which, according to Bernd Protzner, its general secretary: *"People will be able to* meet our candidates and come to know them as sports fans and patriots."

Small wonder there is a row about who gets to shake the hand of the trainer in July, Herr Kohl or Gerhard Schroeder, his probable challenger, who is president of the Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament.

The Chancellor's interest in football is not entirely political posturing. In his younger, slimmer days, he played for a Ludwigshafen amateur team; he likes the tactical flow from defence to attack. But since German politics is pro*vincial, that being the essence* of a federal system, all successful politicians link up with their local clubs — and keep the connection when they reach *the Cabinet*.

Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister, makes time for Karlsruhe matches. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, *rarely misses the Munich* local derby between Bayern Munich and 1860 Munich. Visiting statesmen often end up on the terraces, cold and bemused, alongside their German hosts. *Tribal football loyalties connect leaders* with the led at a time when such links are failing.

Letters, page 23

Daughter tells how she helped to kill family

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BELGIUM'S latest serial murder case has taken a macabre turn after the daughter of a Brussels pastor confessed to killing her mother and to helping him to kill her two brothers, her stepmother and stepbrother.

The confession of Agnés Pandy, 39, was a breakthrough for police who had failed to elicit any statement from Andras Pandy, a Hungarian-born religion teacher, since he was arrested and charged a month ago with murdering six of his family.

In a case that has raised fresh questions about Belgian police competence, investigators also reported over the weekend that frozen human flesh and bones found in Mr Pandy's Brussels house belonged to none of the six. The finding, suggested by DNA tests and evidence from the Hungarian police, raised the prospect that he had killed as many as a dozen people in the past decade.

Inspector François Monsieur said Agnès Pandy, an employee of the Brussels Library, had blurted out her tale on Thursday night. Under orders from her father, she *had used a pistol and a* sledgehammer to murder Ilona Sores, her mother, she said. She had helped her father to put to death her brothers Daniel and Zoltan, her stepmother and father's second wife Edith Fintor, and Fintor's daughter Andrea between 1986 and 1990. The pair disposed of the bodies. "Some parts were dissolved in acid. Others were put in plastic bags and left near the abattoirs of Anderlecht," Inspector Monsieur said.

Prosecutors depicted Ms Pandy as a psychologically fragile woman dominated by her father, a man they describe as a sexually obsessed manipulator with all the traits of the psychopath serial killer. In 1992 Ms Pandy had reported her father to the police for alleged incest and had then alleged that he was involved in the disappearance of her mother and brothers.

Inspector Monsieur said that last week he had allowed Ms Pandy to take a 15-minute walk to "think things over". On her return, he had put the full file under her nose and said: "Now we're going to talk seriously." He added: "All of a sudden, she cracked."

Mr Pandy, who came to Belgium after the 1956 Hungarian uprising, had allayed suspicions with elaborate subterfuge involving forged family letters and having other youths impersonate missing relations. The pastor's frequent and long visits to Hungary had complicated the investigation. He was reported yesterday to be refusing to talk to investigators until he was given £350 to buy food at the prison canteen.

Police failure to pursue the case in 1992 was being compared with the inability of the authorities to solve a string of other notorious murder cases. These included the "Brabant killers" who massacred shoppers in Belgian supermarkets in the 1980s and the alleged crimes of Marc Dutroux, being held on suspicion of abduction and murder.

Police have made no link between the Pandy case and that of another serial killer who left parts of at least three women's bodies in plastic bags in Mons *earlier this year.*

Police are searching for two others of the pastor's children. All the killings are said to have been at his rue de l'Industrie house in the poor Brussels *district of Molenbeek.*

AP

Andras Pandy: is accused of killing two wives and four of his eight children

Poll gives Serbs chance to come in from cold

FROM TOM WALKER IN PRIJEDOR

HARDLINE Bosnian Serbs are getting the message. The proof lies in a faded outline on the wall at Radio Prijedor, where until last month there hung a portrait of Radovan Karadzic, the West's most wanted war crimes suspect.

Republika Srpska's shifting political sands have previously rabidly nationalist public officials running scared. The martyrdom of "Dr K" is now taboo and if the weekend's parliamentary elections hand power to his Western-backed rival, President Plavsic, he may be forgotten in this ravaged corner of northwest Bosnia.

Until results become known next month, Prijedor's ugly past is being brushed under the carpet. Even the July killing by the SAS of the man known locally as "Mr Ten Percent," Simo Drljaca, receives barely a mention now. For the first time in five years, foreigners feel almost welcome. "It was recommended [by foreign friends] that the portrait should not stay," said Zoran Baros, Radio Prijedor's editor, yesterday.

The radio's chameleon politics, however, have come too *late to win friends. A notorious* agent of wartime ethnic cleansing, and denounced by the US-based watchdog Human Rights Watch, it receives no external funding. Like so *much of Prijedor it smacks of* desperate poverty and isolation. Yet around the corner in *Carrington Building — named* after *Dynasty* star Blake Carrington, not the peer and Yugoslav peacemaker — is the new Radio Fenix. Funded by the philanthropist George *Soros and USAid's "Office of* Transition Initiatives", and boasting Western rock, pacey news bulletins and a growing audience, it represents Srpska's acceptable face for *the international community.*

"We have reached the point where we no longer care about issues like war criminals," Drasko Milinovic, a Fenix journalist, said. "There is a desperation among young people to leave this environment ... to improve their living standards. Whether Muslims come back has become a minor issue."

The rival airwaves reflect the political elite. Mrs Plavsic, the first Bosnian Serb leader to co-operate with the West, will win multimillion-dollar aid packages if she can build a moderate political coalition that paves the way for the return of Muslim and Croat refugees and clamps down on war criminals.

The election is deeply unpredictable. Most observers yesterday reckoned that her new Serb People's Union could win about 20 per cent of the vote, enough to build a *moderate coalition.*

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Asian 'miracle' at risk amid political turmoil

Christopher Thomas reports from Dhaka on a sub-continent falling into crisis

GOVERNMENTS in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are reeling as political and financial turmoil grips southern Asia. The upheaval makes a mockery of claims that the region, home to a sixth of the world's people, is poised for an economic miracle.

The fragile coalition Government in India could soon collapse, possibly ushering into power Hindu hardliners who would further inflame relations with neighbouring Pakistan. A general election, certain to produce another weak coalition, could be held early next year.

Pakistan is in even worse political shape than India over a constitutional crisis that could lead to the imprisonment of Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, and his expulsion from office. The army is in despair at the state of politics and there is nationwide contempt for politicians, most of whom are preoccupied with personal enrichment. The army chiefs intervened behind the scenes last week to stop the crisis going completely out of control.

Bangladesh, too, is in trouble. The Government faces an opposition assault to force it out of power over a range of issues, including increasing the prices of essential commodities. International aid donors, who keep the country afloat, issued a warning that assistance could be cut unless political violence and intimidation were curbed. Opposition-led strikes and demonstrations ensure that Bangladesh remains one of the world's poorest countries, despite reforms that have positioned it for rapid growth.

Sri Lanka is also in trouble as the Government struggles against apparently impossible parliamentary odds to push through constitutional reforms to end the Tamil Tigers' armed rebellion. The collapse of the proposals would anger the Tamil minority and further polarise relations with the majority Sinhalese.

Events in India are moving rapidly. The turmoil stems from suggestions in a report by the Jain Commission, set up to look into the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, that Indian politicians may have conspired in the murder of the former Prime Minister. It said a Tamil regional party in southern India, the DMK, was linked to the Tigers at the time of the killing.

The Congress Party, to which Gandhi belonged, is demanding the expulsion of the DMK from the United Front coalition Government in Delhi. Inder Kumar Gujral, the Prime Minister, has rejected that and hinted over the weekend that he expected elections to be held soon.

The Jain report was tabled in parliament last week to rowdy scenes among MPs. Four hundred miles away in Islamabad, Mr Sharif has refused to apologise for making derogatory remarks about the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to the astonishment of allies who believe he could easily have defused the crisis. He must now answer a charge of contempt of court, an imprisonable offence.

His Muslim League had planned to use its substantial majority to impeach President Farooq Leghari for refusing to pass legislation designed to alter the law on contempt. The revision would have enabled the Prime Minister to escape the contempt charge, but the army warned him to back away. He quietly complied, leaving his immediate gameplan in ruins.

Seoul crisis, page 50

PORNCHAI KITTI / AFP

Roger Coach is led to a cell at a Bangkok police station after allegedly trying to blackmail foreign companies

Briton charged with extortion plot in Bangkok

From Andrew Drummond
in Bangkok

A BRITON has been arrested in Bangkok on a charge of waging a terror campaign in the Thai capital while claiming to be a member of the IRA. Roger Coach, 53, was held in a joint operation between Thai police and the FBI for allegedly threatening to blow up international companies unless extortion money were paid.

Police say he is suspected of blackmailing several companies. In particular, he had demanded 14 million baht (about £67,000) from Norcon Teletek, a Norwegian computer company. The police added that it had been easy to trace Mr Coach because he sent the threat by fax and neglected to erase the fax callback identity of the machine he used. He gave his address as the Nana Hotel, next to the Nana Entertainment Plaza, a complex of go-go bars. At the Nana Hotel, a receptionist said she did not know Mr Coach's background, but she said he had a hotel bill outstanding and a go-go bar manager had called to seek settlement of a large bill, which included many "lady drinks".

Russian held over shooting of fellow soldiers

From Richard Beeston
in Moscow

RUSSIAN military authorities yesterday arrested a teenage conscript suspected of killing five fellow servicemen stationed in the Far East in the latest in a series of shooting sprees in the demoralised Russian Armed Forces.

Reports from the Siberian city of Chita said that Vladimir Maltsev, a private serving in the Border Guards, was accused of opening fire on his unit, killing five soldiers and wounding a sixth.

Although such incidents happen in every army, in the Russian military the number of cases has grown sharply, with more than 50 soldiers killed in similar incidents in the past 20 months. Although no details were available about the latest case, most of the killings have been by conscripts going berserk as a result of physical abuse by their superiors.

This month, Yuri Dyomin, Russia's chief military prosecutor, announced that fresh efforts would be made to combat "hazing" in the Armed Forces, a key factor blamed for the rising number of desertions, suicides and mysterious deaths among the 1.5 million men in uniform.

Recently he sent four teams to investigate an Interior Ministry unit, known formerly as the Dzerzhinsky Division. Investigators uncovered evidence of 272 crimes. More than 100 soldiers had suffered severe trauma from physical punishments, including, in at least one case, being forced to eat rat meat as a punishment.

"The circumstances are terrible," the prosecutor said, adding that, in the first nine months of this year, 1,027 soldiers had died in crime-related violence. During the same period 314 committed suicide. In addition, about 2,000 conscripts desert every year.

FBI agents take lessons in detection from Shakespeare super-sleuth

From Tom Rhodes
in Washington

AFTER more than two decades as a Shakespeare scholar, Donald Foster now finds himself diverted from the finer points of Elizabethan English by tasks more suited to Sherlock Holmes.

An English professor who would pass countless hours poring over sonnets, plays and poems, Dr Foster, 47, has become America's academic super-sleuth, a literary specialist who has joined some of the most celebrated recent investigations in the United States and who, for the first time this week, was invited to teach his skills to members of the profiling department at the FBI base in Quantico, Virginia.

It began, as might be expected, at a rarified debate of the Modern Language Association last year where Dr Foster astonished the gathering by demonstrating, with the aid of computer analysis, that a little-known 578-line elegy must have been the work of the Bard.

The attribution caused controversy among British Shakespeare scholars firm in their belief that the previously unascribed *Funeral Elegy for William Peter* bore no relation to Shakespeare's work.

Widespread attention led to demands in America that he solve the most burning literary mystery of the moment: the authorship of *Primary Colors*, the bestselling *roman à clef* about the Clinton campaign in 1992. In an article for *New York* magazine he identified Joe Klein, the *Newsweek* columnist, who admitted later that he was the author. Since then, it seems, offers from law enforcement officials have hardly stopped flooding in to his cluttered office at Vassar College, the distinguished liberal arts university in upstate New York.

"What I do is rather like DNA testing and fingerprinting was in the past," he said. "It is not enough to establish someone's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, but it goes way past the stage of just having a hunch." Employing a combination of wide databases, the Internet and his own literary expertise, Dr Foster is even able to establish books and other sources read by criminals long before they are apprehended.

His techniques include using a computer to gauge whether authors of different texts favour the same uncommon words or phrases. He compares stylistic mannerisms and looks for parallel patterns in grammar, syntax and sentence structure.

When he uncovered the writer of *Primary Colors*, he found that Anonymous and Joe Klein were both fond of compound words, colons and short sentences. The word tarmac-hopping, for instance, appeared otherwise only in Mr Klein's work.

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They also intend to use their cheque book facility to help Sarah when she goes up to University in two years time.

Susan Oliver is aged 29 and single. She lives in Oxford and works as a freelance journalist. Susan intends studying for an MBA while continuing her work and is remortgaging her flat with a loan of £35,000 against a value of £65,000. She will raise capital of £10,000 with her Personal Choice Mortgage and use it to help to fund her studies.
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Winnie Mandela faces accusers

Truth Commission appearance is gamble to win ANC votes, says **Sam Kiley** from Johannesburg

NELSON MANDELA'S former wife Winnie will today face allegations that she was involved in 13 murders and numerous human-rights abuses during a township reign of terror in the late 1980s. The African National Congress hopes the claims, to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, will shatter her chances of winning the party's deputy presidency.

But the hearings of the commission — set up to hear amnesty pleas over apartheid-era crimes — will also reveal the dark side of the ANC and the extent to which senior figures in the struggle against apartheid connived to protect her from prosecution.

Members of the South African ruling elite are lining up to give evidence against the erstwhile "Mother of the Nation". Among them is Sydney Mufamadi, the Minister of Police, who was part of an ANC crisis committee which issued a warning to Oliver Tambo, then party president, saying that she "thinks she is above the community" and had participated in the assault on Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, who was murdered in December 1988.

Katiza Cebekhulu, a star witness in the prosecution of Mrs Madikizela-Mandela, has been granted immunity from prosecution. He disappeared during her trial for the abduction and murder of Stompie, 14, and was being sheltered by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, the former British MP. Now he may say that he watched as Mrs Madikizela-Mandela plunged a sharp object into Stompie. According to Kenneth Kaunda, the former Zambian President, Mr Cebekhulu was smuggled out of South Africa to Lusaka at the request of the ANC leadership to prevent his giving evidence against Mrs Madikizela-Mandela.

But the most damning evidence may come from crisis committee members, including Cyril Ramaphosa, who went on to become ANC Secretary-General and is now a prominent businessman. In 1989 the committee wrote to the late Tambo saying it believed Mrs Madikizela-Mandela had spun out of control and was a threat to the community and party credibility.

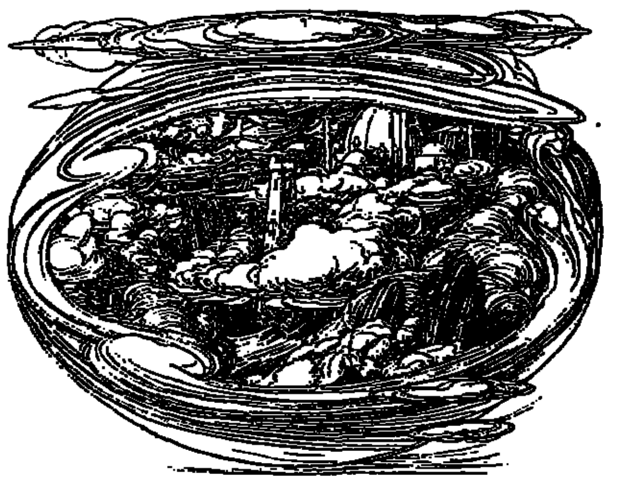
There have also been suggestions that she may have been in the pay of the white Government's security police, along with Jerry Richardson, now serving life for Stompie's murder. She was convicted and fined for kidnapping and assaulting Stompie.

Albertina Sisulu, widow of Walter Sisulu — who held the post now coveted by Mrs Madikizela-Mandela — may destroy her alibi in the Stompie case and may accuse her of other killings.

Truth Commission hearings into the activities of Mrs Madikizela-Mandela's bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club, open three weeks before the ANC's 50th-anniversary conference, at which Mr Mandela will retire as party president, handing over to his deputy, Thabo Mbeki.

A hypnotic and charismatic speaker, Mrs Madikizela-Mandela, 63, who demanded a public hearing into the football club, is likely to try to use her commission appearance to enhance her campaign to win the ANC deputy presidency, attacking a party leadership that she has accused of "betraying the masses" and being "soft on crime". The party's chosen candidate is Jacob Zuma.

If her gamble to clear her name succeeds, television coverage of her expected attacks on the ANC national executive may translate into significant support at the party conference.



The "paradise on earth" as described by Coleridge

EXPLORER ARCHIVES

One of Xanadu's newly revealed features may be the park where Kubla Khan was believed to have hunted deer

Aerial survey uncovers high street of Xanadu

From James Pringle in Beijing

SO TWICE five miles of fertile ground
With walls and towers were girdled round:
And there were gardens bright with sinuous rills,
Where blossomed many an incense-bearing tree.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem that begins "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure-dome decree", was quoted in Beijing's *China Daily* yesterday when it reported discoveries that "have already excited archaeologists" at the Inner Mongolian site now known as Shangdu. Chinese aerial archaeologists, flying over the ruins of Xanadu, the summer palace of Kubla Khan, have found a main avenue that they believe was once lined by shops and restaurants.

The archaeologists believe they were formerly frequented by travellers from the ancient Mediterranean, possibly including Marco Polo who had claimed to have visited Xanadu when employed in the court of Kubla Khan, 1214-1294, the grandson of the Mongol conqueror, Genghis Khan, the newspaper said.

Referring to recent aerial photographic reconnaissance which took place in northern China, Yang Lin, director of the Centre of Remote Sensing and Aerial Archaeology, said: "In Xanadu, we have found ruins of ancient streets and tombs that haven't been noticed before." An aerial picture published yesterday showed the three squares of the imperial city, the inner city and the palace city which — as Coleridge wrote — cover "an area of several dozen square kilometres".

The reason much of this had not been noticed in the past was that it was difficult for archaeologists on the ground to get the overall picture. "Aerial remote sensing is at least several dozen times more efficient than the traditional method," Mr Yang said. On Xanadu, he remarked: "When a man stands on the ruin, it's like a cat squatting on the carpet — he may not see the pattern at all. But, flying above, the framework is very apparent." The *China Daily* article quoted both Marco Polo, whom some Western academics doubt ever reached China, and Coleridge's poem.

It said that Marco Polo was impressed by Xanadu at first sight, while Coleridge eulogised the Mongol summer capital as a "paradise on Earth". Mr Yang described how many small signs are often imperceptible to the naked eye, but might help to bring out the outlines when viewed from above.

For example, at the ruins of walls and building foundations, where the soil is thin and holds little water, the grass and moss have difficulty growing and might appear less lush and green than those in other areas, he said. Because the walls of ancient buildings have rammed-earth or stone bases, the temperature of this part of the earth would be different from that of the surrounding area. "There the snow and the frost melt more slowly than in other places. Seen from above, a white strip would be left on the site of an ancient street," The *China Daily* noted, adding that the main street in Xanadu was brought out by a combination of many of these signs.

Ancient travellers had frequently referred to "a majestic street used by many foreigners who came to visit Xanadu". The report said that on both sides of this street ruins of shops and restaurants were also picked out by the survey. Observers noted that some of the details now being exposed seemed to vindicate Marco Polo's descriptions of a royal park of 16 miles circuit "where a variety of animals of the deer and goat kind are pastured, to serve as food for the hawks and others birds employed in the chase." Kubla Khan was a great hunter.

US black groups accused of buying off teacher in affirmative action case

From Tunku Varadarajan in New York

A LONG-running "affirmative action" case has been settled out of court after a white teacher — who was made redundant eight years ago so that her school could accommodate a black teacher no better qualified than she — accepted compensation.

Seventy per cent of the $433,500 (£258,000) was paid by the Black Leadership Forum, a civil rights group which was determined to stop the suit from reaching the Supreme Court. The group feared that the court would use the case to cut down the scope of affirmative action.

The Supreme Court has already pared down affirmative action in two recent cases and experts had predicted that the case of Sharon Taxman, laid off by the Picataway High School in New Jersey in 1989, would see that trend continue. David Rubin, the lawyer for the Piscataway school board, said that the black rights group believed that "an adverse ruling could gut the infrastructure of affirmative action across the country".

There is a paradox in this case, however, in that the appeal to the Supreme Court came not from Mrs Taxman but from the Piscataway school board itself. This was its genesis: Mrs Taxman was employed by another New Jersey school in 1992, but the board refused to give her back pay. She sued, and was awarded $144,000 by a federal judge. The board appealed, but the appeals court found for Mrs Taxman.

The board then appealed to the Supreme Court in Washington, which was due to hear the case on January 14.

In a separate case last year, the court ruled that admission by racial quota at the University of Texas law school was unconstitutional. More recently, it declined to hear a challenge to the constitutionality of "Proposition 209", a California intiative which bans race and gender preference in employment and school admissions. Using pressure behind the scenes, black rights activists convinced the school board to drop its appeal, agreeing to fund the lion's share of any out-of-court payment.

The Black Leadership Forum has been accused of "buying off" Mrs Taxman. The *New York Post* said in an editorial: "You might say that Piscataway's appeal died so that affirmative action might live."

The newspaper continued: "The 'diversity industry' couldn't afford to lose the case, and did what it did to save itself . . . The organised black leadership . . . is done trying to win through argument. Instead, it will try to maintain the quota regime by stealth."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Pentagon attacks dismissed pilot

Washington: Kelly Flinn, the former pilot who was the first woman to fly a B52 bomber, launched a book tour throughout the United States yesterday as she faced a backlash from the Pentagon about the affair that led to her dismissal from the US Air Force (Tom Rhodes writes).

The 15-city tour to promote *Proud to Be* has already prompted strong criticism from Air Force officials, who said they failed to convey their side of the story at the time of her general discharge earlier this year. They say it was her lying, not the affair, that led to her departure. Ms Flinn, who resigned after a relationship with a married man, has said on television that she simply loved the wrong person.

Papon trial 'should end'

Paris: The trial of the accused Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon, 87, should be abandoned if his health continues to deteriorate, his lawyers argued as the latest medical bulletin indicated that proceedings, halted on Monday, could be delayed again (Ben Macintyre writes). M Papon was taken to a Bordeaux hospital with double pneumonia. The seven-week trial has been postponed frequently on health grounds.

Britons fight pet poisoning

Athens: Amanda and Phillip Stembridge, a British couple working as lawyers in Greece, are launching a poster campaign against endemic pet poisonings after their dog died as they watched, when he ate spiked bread he had found on the ground (John Carr writes). Many Greek local authorities put poisoned food in streets and parks to reduce the numbers of stray cats and dogs.

Chancellor's life in song

Dortmund: An opera based on the life of Germany's late Chancellor Willy Brandt, whose normalisation of relations with Eastern Europe won him the 1971 Nobel Peace Prize, received its premiere here. The opera, *Kneel Down in Warsaw*, features a scene recalling him kneeling in 1970 before the memorial in the Warsaw ghetto, where hundreds of thousands of Jews died under the Nazis. *(AP)*

Skydiver kills pilot

Rotterdam: A pilot was killed when his light aircraft spun out of control and crashed near Rhoon after a skydiver struck its tail as he jumped out. The single-engine Cessna 206 had taken off from Rotterdam airport nearby with five parachutists. The pilot, who was not wearing a parachute, jumped clear as the plane hit the ground but died instantly. The injured skydiver was taken to hospital. *(Reuters)*

'Toy' bomb kills children

Peshawar: A mine made to look like a child's toy exploded killing five children under ten in a remote corner of northwest Pakistan 90 miles southwest of here. Russian pilots dropped hundreds of thousands of the plastic "toy bombs", brightly coloured and looking like a butterfly, during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in the 1980s and thousands landed over the border in Pakistan. *(AP)*

Moro fugitive is arrested

Athens: Greece has arrested a fugitive Red Brigades guerrilla convicted in Italy of involvement in the 1978 kidnapping and murder of Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister, in Rome. Enrico Bianco, 45, right, who was sentenced in absentia to ten years in jail the same year, was found by police on a yacht off the western Greek town of Aktion on Saturday after a tip-off. He is expected to be extradited. *(Reuters)*

US rap star arrested

Stuttgart: Coolio, the American rap singer, was arrested and bailed twice over claims that a 29-year-old shopowner was punched in the stomach during an incident at a boutique when clothes were taken. German police said they arrested eight people in the town of Böblingen. Among Coolio's international hits was *Gangsta's Paradise (Reuters)*

Women flee Iranian jail

Tehran: Six women escaped from a jail in Tabriz, northwest Iran, after strangling a female guard and knocking another unconscious, *Iran* newspaper reported yesterday. Four of them were arrested immediately after their escape last week, but police were still searching for the other two. *(AFP)*

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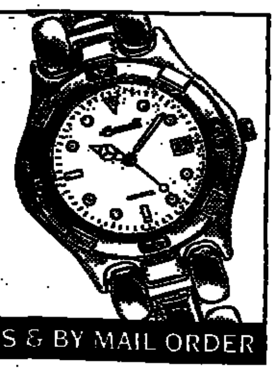

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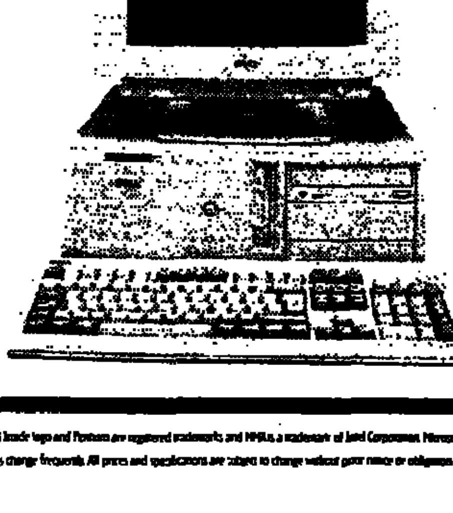

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Running on empty

SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

IDEALISTS have long sought to get something for nothing. But those who inhabit the wilder shores of physics are now aiming to get something *from* nothing — from a vacuum, in fact. Even at absolute zero, quantum mechanics teaches, a vacuum is not entirely empty. It contains so-called zero-point energy, which is responsible for some well-known effects.

One of them was predicted in 1948 by the Dutch physicist Hendrijk Casimir, who worked out that if two metal plates were brought close enough to one another, they would attract each other very slightly. This is because the closeness of the plates allows only certain short-wavelength types of vacuum energy to fit in between them.

All other types continue to operate outside this tiny gap, creating a net pressure that drives the plates together. The effect, however implausible, is real. Dr Steve Lamoreaux of Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico measured it and found the force corresponds to the weight of a single blood cell.

Not a lot, then. But that has not stopped some physicists touting zero-point energy as the solution to the world's problems, as the *Scientific American* staff writer Philip Yam reports in the December issue of the magazine.

One of them is Dr Harold Puthoff, who runs the Institute for Advanced Studies in Austin, Texas. Dr Puthoff and his colleagues have examined some ten different devices during the past decade and found that none can tap into zero-point energy.

Dr Puthoff is not discouraged. He believes that zero-point energy may be the force responsible for keeping atoms from collapsing — for maintaining electrons in orbit around the nucleus. If you could, in effect, use atoms as miniature Casimir plates, you could extract infinitely more energy than Dr Lamoreaux managed, he says.

That is because even a small volume of material contains a large number of atoms. He hints that the institute is working on such a device, but as yet, that is as much as he is willing to reveal.

More mainstream physicists consider this cranky. "I was rather dismayed at the attention from what I consider a kook community," Dr Lamoreaux told Mr Yam. "It trivialises and abuses my work."

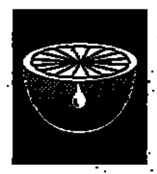
He is also irritated that people he describes as pseudo-scientists get suppport for their research. Dr Puthoff does get some American Government funding, although most of his money comes from private firms.

The orthodox view is that zero-point energy exists, but in nothing like the quantities needed to provide an alternative to coal, oil, nuclear or solar energy.

Dr Peter Milonni, also of Los Alamos Laboratory, suggests that to extract meaningful amounts of energy, the plates would need to be kilometres long. Even then, they would have to be forced apart again, which would cost as much energy as had been generated in the first place.

All this sounds like a convincing demolition job, but zero-point enthusiasts still do not accept it. Why, they query, should the Los Alamos laboratory, home of the atom bomb, employ two experts on a subject with no practical application? To a conspiracist, there's no arguing with that.

Why grapefruit juice and drugs don't mix



TAKING certain drugs at the same time as drinking grapefruit juice is not recommended, because the juice has odd effects on the way the drugs are absorbed. The cause, it has been established, are substances in the juice called furanocoumarins which attach themselves to an enzyme in the small intestine. This enzyme normally breaks down the drugs, reducing their absorption, so drug doses are calculated to allow for that.

The effect of the juice is to block the enzyme, and thus greatly increase the effective dose. Drugs taken for high blood pressure, heart disease, and allergies may all be affected, depending on the individual patient. Dr Paul Watkins of the University of Michigan reports in *Drug Metabolism and Disposition* that two furanocoumarins are present in the juice, and that they have slightly different effects.

Dr Watkins sees the findings as an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of some drugs. He proposes incorporating them into pills, to increase absorption though the wall of the intestine.

The knowledgeable nutcrackers

BIRDS can bisect a line between two fixed points in order to locate hidden food, experiments at the University of Nebraska have shown. This helps to explain how a bird species called Clark's nutcrackers manage to rediscover the seeds they bury in different places.

Dr Alan Kamil and Juli Jones first trained five caged birds to expect to find seeds buried midway between two plastic pipes serving as landmarks. Then they varied the spacing of the pipes at random, between about a foot and 3ft 6in apart. They still buried the seeds at the midpoint, and the nutcrackers were still able to find them, usually within the first few tries, they report in *Nature*.

This talent could prove very useful in the depths of winter, when it is important for the birds to locate food quickly and without wasting energy. "A beak is a very small shovel," points out Dr Kamil.

Whether they are also able to work out more complex geometrical relationships between fixed points such as trees remains unknown, but even the simple talent of bisection could be useful.

ARTS
Has political correctness gone mad on the silver screen?
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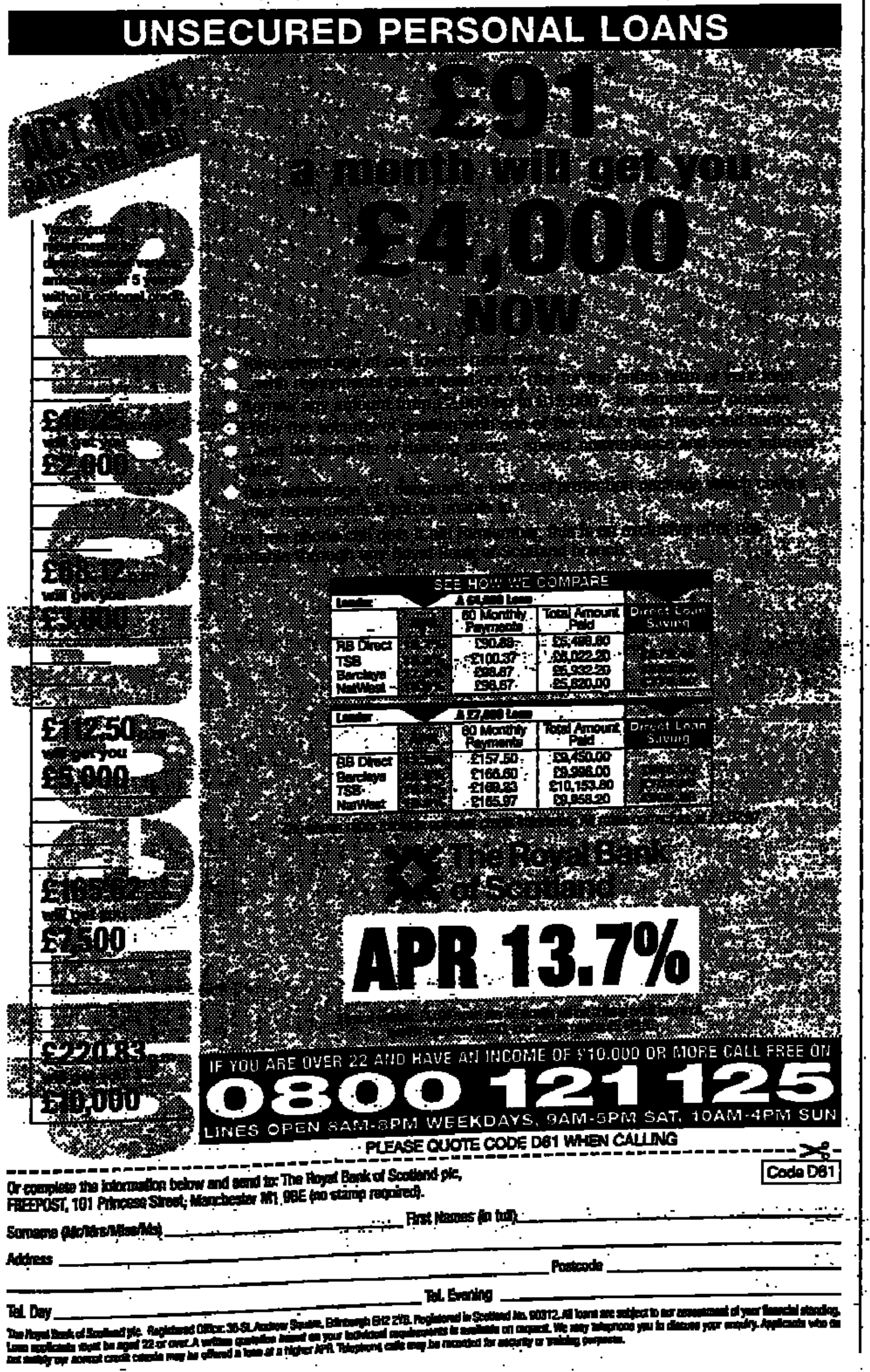

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NHPA

Presence of the *Brucella* bacterium among dolphins, porpoises and seals off Britain's coasts has increased concerns over toxic pollution

Dolphins in danger

Nick Nuttall on a lethal bacterium that could have a devastating effect on Britain's marine population

The first signs of trouble came in 1991, and were detected in a dead harbour porpoise washed ashore in the Moray Firth. The rare animal was found to be infected with a potentially deadly bacterium called *Brucella*.

The discovery triggered great concern among scientists studying marine mammals. In land animals such as cattle, sheep, goats and dogs, the bacterium infects the uterus and placenta, inducing spontaneous abortions. Male reproductive organs can also become inflamed and damaged.

To see if the Moray Firth finding was an isolated case or a harbinger of worse to come, a team from the Institute of Zoology in London has been testing for *Brucella* antibodies in frozen blood and heart fluid samples collected from marine animals found stranded around the coast of England and Wales since 1989.

The findings, published in the latest edition of the *Veterinary Record*, show that the bacterium is widespread among porpoises, dolphins and seals. A significant number of samples from 1990 onwards shows signs of contamination.

The new research forms part of the Marine Mammals Stranding Project, funded by the Department of the Environment and conducted by the institute. The study focused on 153 marine mammals stranded between 1989 and 1995.

The researchers were hunting for antibodies produced in response to *Brucella* infection.

> 'Humans have put marine mammals under stress'

They were detected in six out of 62 grey seals, and one out of 12 common seals. There was more to come — 11 out of 35 harbour porpoises tested positive. And among common dolphins, antibodies were found in nine out of 29 animals.

Antibodies were also isolated from a striped dolphin, a bottlenose dolphin, a killer whale and a pilot whale.

In addition, Geoffrey Foster, from the Scottish Agricultural College in Inverness, says they have now managed to culture *Brucella* from samples taken from a white-beaked dolphin, an Atlantic white-sided dolphin, and from grey and hooded seals.

Paul Jepson of the Institute of Zoology, and an expert on dolphins and porpoises, says it is possible that the bacterium had been carried by the ancestors of modern dolphins and porpoises millions of years ago, as they evolved into marine mammals.

But it was also possible that the bacterium emerged more recently from a source such as agricultural run-off. There is a precedent — Mr Jepson says studies have shown that an infection known as sea lion virus, which afflicts sea lions, "is almost identical to a virus found in pigs".

It is suspected that that virus reached the sea lions via sewage and sludge contaminated with pig faeces.

The scientists are not able to deduce whether the *Brucella* exposed in the samples actually ravaged the mammals' insides. Already threatened by fishing nets, the population of about 340,000 harbour porpoises in the North and Celtic Seas is falling by about 6 per cent a year.

The findings indicate that more than 110,000 may have been exposed to the bacterium. The population of common dolphins is unknown. But the bottlenose dolphin population numbers about 300, and they live mainly in and around Cardigan Bay, West Wales and the Moray Firth.

Of the animals that die, only a tiny fraction are washed ashore and find their way into laboratories.

Brucella may have a far greater hold than the latest findings suggest. Conservationists say the findings underline the need to reduce toxic pollution and other threats to these beautiful creatures, especially harbour porpoises.

Chris Stroud of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society says there is evidence that the cocktail of PCBs, pesticides, sewage-related chemicals and other pollutants were undermining the capacity of whales, dolphins and porpoises to fight disease. The findings are likely to increase pressure on the Government to set up "stress-free" marine conservation areas for porpoises and dolphins.

In such areas, potentially harmful activities ranging from oil exploration and dredging to leisure pursuits such as jet skiing, are more rigorously, and legally, controlled.

Wildlife groups want such areas to be listed under the European Habitats and Species Directive.

"Our limited knowledge shows that these marine mammals are under enormous stress from the impact of humans," Mr Stroud says. "So just as our immune systems suffer when we are run down, these marine mammals may be unable properly to fight the effects of this bacterium."

The researchers now plan to search for *Brucella* more vigorously during routine post-mortems and to try to match reproductive organ disease with the bacterium.

"We have got to carry on doing the post-mortems and build up more data. The problem with *Brucella* is that it is very slow and very difficult to grow," says Mr Jepson.

They also want to attempt to unravel possible methods of transmission.

There is some evidence that bacterial infections are transmitted via parasites such as nematode worms, which prey on marine mammals.

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How to be an armchair tycoon

Malcolm Stacey has made a fortune on the stock market; now he wants others to follow suit. Interview by **Bill Frost**

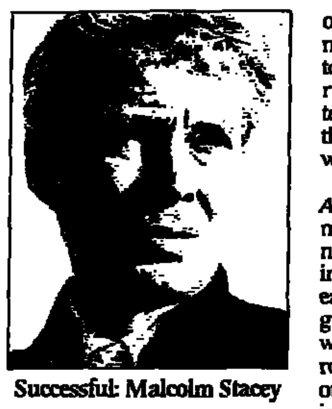
KOBAL

Gambling on the stock market can bring results, claims Malcolm Stacey. "I think everybody should do it, provided they have a little spare cash to risk"

As others climb irritably from their beds cursing alarm clocks and employers, Malcolm Stacey sleeps on smug in the knowledge that his financial future is secure. He will never be a wage slave again — he has made a fortune on the stock market and wants others to break their shackles and follow his example.

The 45-year-old former journalist and broadcaster will not put a figure on his wealth but the self-satisfied smile speaks volumes. "Sure, I could buy a Rolls-Royce today and take the family for a month in the Seychelles and not even notice, but I'm not one for conspicuous displays of affluence."

Stacey's first success came ten years ago when he made £150,000 from an initial investment of £1,000. As a reporter on BBC consumer and financial programmes, he had made a point of studying form and buttering up interviewees with specialist financial knowledge.


Successful: Malcolm Stacey

His first punt — he will not name the company — went very well and Stacey realised "here was a way to escape the tyranny of working for others". However, it was six years before he was willing to make the final break from the corporation and trust his instincts.

"I think everybody should do it, provided they have a little spare cash to risk. Otherwise you will spend the rest of your life sweating for somebody else's benefit.

"Buying shares to make a profit is not just pure capitalism either. By investing you might be helping to save a company from extinction."

The secret of success is simple, says Stacey. Do not invest if you are likely to lose sleep every night wondering how your shares will perform the following day.

"There are a baker's dozen basic tips — an unlucky number for some, but quite the opposite for me. Spread your money between many different sectors — from banking to brewing and be brave.

"Look for slow but steady risers — that means daily reading of Teletext and the newspapers. Wait for a good success story to meet up with a bargain share price.

"Never buy on a rumour but buy into a company when its rivals are doing badly. Always follow the fortunes of leading companies: Coca-Cola, Gillette, McDonald's, and so on.

"Buy into firms with a low share price compared with rivals in the same field. When there are conflicting sigals about a company, get out fast.

"However, don't be *too* eager to sell when there's a panic on. But when hesitating over whether or not to sell a share, ask yourself if you would buy it now. If not, ditch it. Don't take profits too early if the share keeps rising, but don't be greedy by hanging on too long.

"It's a question of common sense, nerve and sticking to those simple rules. Instinct enters into it, too, but that only comes with time."

Stacey's book, *Armchair Tycoon*, makes the business of accumulating wealth seem easy. The language is simple, without being patronising and without any of the jargon that baffles all but the very few who can break the Square Mile's code.

The author makes no promises guaranteeing the reader wealth beyond the dreams of avarice. However, his own performance does encourage confidence.

"I didn't go into this primarily to make a mint; my motivation was to work for myself and never take orders from a boss ever again. And, once you grasp the basics, it's not hard to make money."

Stacey could afford hampers from Harrods every day but would not dream of abandoning the local grocer in the small village outside York where he lives with his wife and three young children.

"It's that conspicuous display of affluence again — it's not being a mean Yorkshireman at all; I really don't like being seen to splash money about for its own sake."

His garden is planted out with seasonal vegetables and soft fruit. There are hens and geese, too.

"The birds provide us with eggs and we love them. They'll never be served up at the dinner table as we are all vegetarians now.

"It may seem strange, but wealth has turned me green environmentally. Despite potentially huge profits, I will not invest in the arms industry, in tobacco shares, betting shops or companies that carry out tests on animals. It doesn't take a genius to work out that these people are doing others harm to make a fast buck.

"I owe it to my children and myself not to do anything that might prick my conscience. It has cost me thousands, but that kind of profit would be dirty money.

"I work from home, so I am never going to be an absentee father. I want the children to be proud of their father, not see him as some guy that simply invests to make a profit without a thought for the moral consequences."

Stacey's working day begins at about 11am. After a leisurely breakfast over the financial pages, he takes his place in front of the television and tunes into Teletext's City service.

He watches the ebb and flow of share values before calling his broker. "I suppose I do about £6,000 worth of business every day, sometimes more.

"Usually I am up on the day. However, I did have a bad session last week — lost about six grand; still, win a few, lose a few.

"By and large, I buy on the dips — when shares in a company are on the slide. You get a nose after a while, you know that stock is going to rally and you will be well in the black.

"You must be a bit like a bookie, sniffing the air and looking at form all the time. And just like a bookie, you can earn the average person's monthly salary in a couple of minutes."

So how does such rampant profiteering square with his "green and radical" principles? "Given the choice what would you do... work for the BBC or make money hand over fist by sitting in front of the TV for a few hours every day and calling your broker? I'd say that's no-contest.

"I will see my children grow up — I'm not going to be a dad who is too tired to play with the little ones when he gets home. I am also able to give them a good start in life and not many men can say that these days."

For those with any doubts about Stacey's Midas touch, his bank manager called while we ate lunch to ask for some tips. "It makes a change from being told that your cheques are being bounced, but those days are long gone," he says afterwards with a Cheshire-cat grin.

And Stacey's tip for the aspiring tycoon? "First, forget any working-class preconceptions that dealing on the market is akin to backing a horse. That way you will lead a life of crushing mediocrity, placing too high a price on security."

So, his current favourites? "I don't normally do this, but if you have a bit of spare cash slopping around why not try British Telecommunications, Border Television, Fortune Oil, which has strong links with the blossoming Chinese economy, and Sleepy Kids, the company that markets the Duchess of York's Budgie the Helicopter range.

"Those to give a wide birth are British Gas and Thames Water — in fact, any water company. However, don't hold me to any of this, don't bother trying to sue — remember all gambling is a risk."

● Armchair Tycoon *is published by Robson Books Ltd at £8.99*

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هكذا من الأصل

Nothing but sex, clothes and boyfriends?

The Social Affairs Unit's survey of women's magazines is arrogant and misleading, says **Tina Gaudoin**

READING the new pamphlet by the Social Affairs Unit is a bit like being buttonholed by a London cabbie: you are overwhelmed by the crudity of the polemic. For what ought to have been a thoughtful survey, exploring complex questions of women's identity, sexuality and professional aspiration, amounts to little more than a roar of regret at the supposed ills of modernity.

From Anne Applebaum to Janet Daley and from Digby Anderson to Kenneth Minogue, the contributors to *The British Woman Today* are united in their contempt for the "depressing" culture of women's magazines. The archetypal reader of these publications, caricatured as "Magazine Woman", is selfish, sex-obsessed, trivial, lazy, intellectually incurious and morally vacuous. As Ms Daley puts it: "For [Magazine Woman] morality is entirely a matter of personal preference: no one's values are inherently better than anyone else's." For Digby Anderson, arguing that women's sexual obsession is really part of a wider obsession with self, there is "coarseness, savagery and voyeurism in the monotonously sexual language of Magazine Woman".

Were we wrong to expect better from the Social Affairs Unit, a respected independent think-tank funded by charitable donations from business and private individuals? For running beneath this ocean of rhetoric and *ex cathedra* statement is a strong current of truth. Many women's magazines *are* unusually interested in sex and fashion; their world view is alarmingly narrow.

But, perhaps, the mistake is to take women's magazines too seriously; to read them *literally*, and so failing to see them for what they are: a harmless diversion from the struggle of daily life.

JASON COWLEY

Digby Anderson

Question: what does the aptly named Social Affairs Unit (SAU) hope to gain from its searingly prurient analysis of women's magazines? Answer: mounds of publicity in the form of rabid female editors hotly defending their art, and explosive tabloid headlines that are readily offered in the preface of this highly amusing pamphlet, *Magazine Woman lives in a value-free world*. Shock, horror, soundbite.

Yes, there's more than a grain of truth in what the unit has to say. There's unquestionably a view among many magazine editors that their readers "want" little more than a glossy filled with sex, relationships and fashion. "Magazine Woman's life is a round of indulgences of a distinctly tawdry kind," it says. And there is certainly room in the market for an intelligent, irreverent, formulaic sex-free magazine (cue *Frank*). But what's truly tragic is that the SAU and its humour-free contributors really believe that the British woman is dumb enough to be negatively influenced by what she reads in glossy magazines, which are, by all accounts, regarded as a luxury.

What's even more worrying is the indignant, highbrow tone. Apparently, Magazine Woman is "indifferent to literature, art, learning and civic responsibility". Shades of the *über* class writing a thesis on the underclass — only for these arrogant academics, "them" just happen to be the four million women of every age and social group who pick up a women's magazines regularly, providing "some kind of vote of approval" to magazines that write about "vices as virtues". Oh dear, the unit seems to have fallen under the spell of the very thing that it condemns — believing a synthetic value system as purveyed by the glossies.

The SAU's publicity-seeking agenda is given away far too early, with the prerequisite mention of — yes, you guessed it, Girl Power — characterised by faithlessness and the enjoyment of drunken pranks once associated with adolescent boys. Oh dear, the SAU really has bought into the Spice Girl hype. Have a Pepsi. Haven't they ever heard of escapism, fun, or, as men's magazines would term it, "having a laugh"? Do they really think women read magazines with the same po-face that they have clearly pulled in the writing of these articles?

There's much mention of the kitchen and the bedroom — what could be simpler for the SAU than to draw on that time-honoured feminist polemic of mother and whore? According to Professor Keith Minogue: "MW has escaped from the kitchen only to get as far as the bedroom." He wishes. And talking of SAU fantasies: "Magazine Woman exhibits a predatory and aggressive attitude in her search for sexual conquest." Is reading about it, or writing about it, the same as doing it? I don't think so.

And then there's the admonishment of magazines that focus on the saving of time and effort where cooking is concerned. Oh, no. Not advice on labour-saving for the working woman. Apparently, magazines like *Bella* and *Prima* score points because they purvey "deeply held lower middle-class virtues" of marriage, stability and motherhood (Dr Myles Harris).

> 'Haven't they ever heard of escapism or having a laugh?'

MW finds reality rather awkward, reads one sub-head. One gets the feeling that the same could be said of the SAU writers. There's an insecurity running beneath their condemnations of MW. If she really is to be believed — a sexually rampant, alcohol-swilling, immoral opportunist — then, the SAU reasoning seems to be, the survival of mankind is surely threatened. Perhaps that's what lies beneath their complaints that Magazine Woman is "child free"; Anne Applebaum rightly points out that how to balance children with work is the issue that worries most women.

In contrast to what the SAU says, magazines like *Harpers and Queen*, *Tatler* and *The Lady* all feature children. The younger magazines like *Elle*, *Cosmopolitan* and *She* are less likely to make children a focus, since they are marketed at younger readers. The SAU admonishes an entire *Cosmopolitan* supplement, *Sex and Your Body at 20, 30, 40*, for not mentioning children once. Well, unless MW is a practising Roman Catholic there's surely very little reason for her to think of intercourse and procreation in the same thought or the same supplement.

The seminal pieces refer to Magazine Woman's penchant for indulging herself and avoiding reality. "There is little need for effort or hard work, save in that temple of self-adoration, the gym, and no need to think of anyone but herself." Really? It's a wonder that women like the PM's wife who has guest-edited a glossy and admits to visiting the gym at least three times a week, ever get any work done, any children raised or maintain any form of relationship. Janet Daley, columnist for one of Britain's bestselling broadsheets, also wades in to tell us that she is depressed by "the picture of British women as self-centred television-addicted fantasists". Presumably, Janet doesn't feel the same about Radio 4-addicted fantasists — her other medium of choice. What's more depressing is the SAU's hackneyed aproach to every single "anti-women's magazine" argument out there. They've even dragged out that old chocolate covered chestnut of models and eating disorders.

One wonders whether they really ought to have considered undertaking a proper, qualified study into the mass media in general. Their paper raises more questions than it answers — but not on the topic they were addressing. For a start, it raises the question of how serious, smart academics and writers like Janet Daley and Anne Applebaum were duped into writing earnestly about the one tiny segment of the mass media which has always been derogatively judged as lightweight fluff. Why the sudden flattering turnaround? At the risk of repeating the obvious — why, if women's magazines are suddenly deemed to be so influential — were not papers included on the damaging stereotypes purveyed by men's magazines? Why were the persuasive, emotive worlds of TV, movies and advertising ignored — what happened to TV Woman or Movie Woman?

What's most transparent about the SAU study is the glee with which the writers devoured their magazines and approached the subject. I wouldn't be surprised if the whole lot of them have taken out their subscriptions.

● *The author is Editor of* Frank *magazine*

WHAT THE EDITORS SAY

● **Marie O'Riordan,** editor of *Elle*: "A women's magazine is all about fantasy and escapism. They don't buy magazines for a reality check. Their thinking is, 'This is for *me*.' The writers haven't given any thought to why these magazines sell in such large numbers."

● **Fiona Macpherson,** editor of *Harpers & Queen*: "If Anthony Flew imagines that *Harpers & Queen* is aimed at your normal suburban housewife he knows nothing about women's magazines or women. *Harpers & Queen* is aimed at women who love the best of everything. Most of our readers have children, but don't want to read about them."

● **Jane Procter,** editor of *Tatler*: "These writers don't even seem to realise that *Tatler* is a satirical magazine. But then, if you're an academic, maybe you've never learnt to view life with a sense of humour. *Tatler* is about being incredibly rich, and consuming, and having lots of fun."

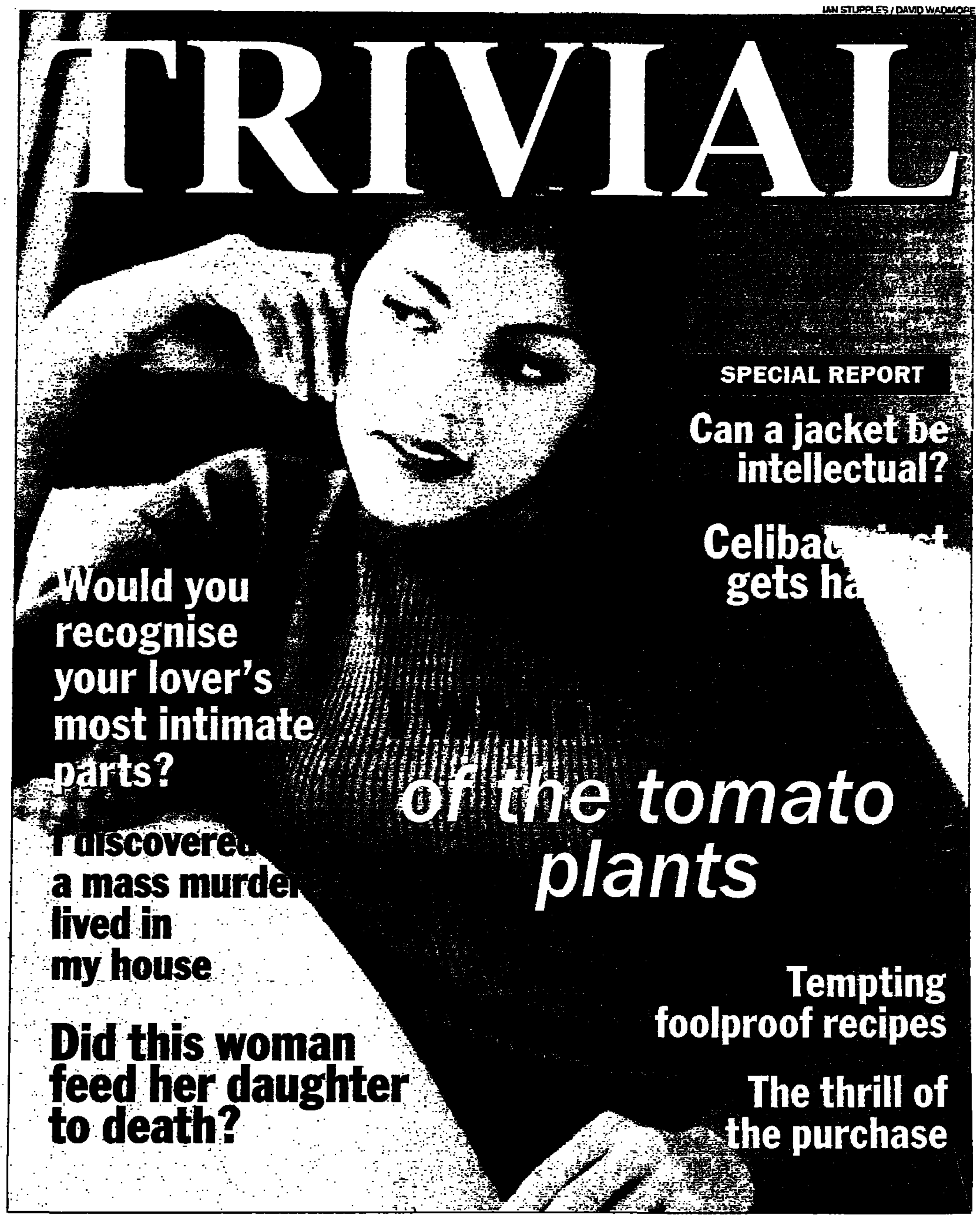
● **Jackie Highe,** editor of *Bella*: "It's not entirely surprising that the many male contributors to this piece of 'research' are out of touch with what women might want or care about. But it saddens me that the women contributors seem to know still less."

● **Mandi Norwood,** editor of *Cosmopolitan*: "I see this bunch of academics sitting round pontificating and intellectualising over something that is there to inspire and encourage women. And I know from our mountains of correspondence that this is exactly what we do."

● **Fiona McIntosh,** editor of *Company*: "Just looking at the list of writers, I'd be concerned if they did have anything in common with *Company* readers. It's not for them. It's for young, single girls in their twenties who love having fun and don't have big commitments."

● **Juliet Warkentin,** editor of *Marie Claire*: "*Marie Claire* presents its features in an interesting and non-judgmental manner. Our investigative reporting has won us three Amnesty International Awards — a record unmatched by any UK publication."

IAN STUPPLES / DAVID WADMORE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هكذا من الاصل

Let us now praise our defunct Great Men

The Great Man theory of history is dead. So dodo is its state that even to muse on it is to be mocked. But is its death merely a fashion? What if fashion, that most seductive of social vices, has buried great men foolishly? (Of course there have been and are Great Women too. But for the sake of this argument perhaps I'll be permitted to concentrate on the masculine.)

The matter has come up because of science, Roman history and world religion. *On Giant Shoulders*, the Radio 4 science series with which I am associated, raised some hackles when Professor Lewis Wolpert offered the hypothesis — emphatically, as is his trademark — that Archimedes could well be thought of as the individual who begat what the West has known ever since as science. Not technology, not engineering, not addings or subtractings, but scientific thought — something which, by implication, was happened on and therefore might never have happened at all.

The Roman history is to be seen on BBC2 in the television series currently taking us through the Roman Empire on the backs of six of its mightiest emperors. It gives them what many may consider to be vastly over-credited importance in the scheme of things.

My religious reference is from a series I am preparing for ITV investigating world religions with leading representatives from various denominations.

In religion, history and science, the swing away from a view which prevailed widely into the 20th century — that Great Men could change the world — has been so dramatic that you never today hear a murmur against it. It has Stalinistically stamped out opposition. But when a theory prevalent for many millennia, a theory moreover which accords with the diurnal experience of even the most mundane existence, is so comprehensively expelled from intellectual respectability, then surely some investigation is required.

The best starting point, as often to uncover a crime, is to look first to the arts. Question: Had Shakespeare not been born would we have had Shakespearean literature? An individual can make an essential, a cultural life-changing difference.

Why then do we now rear up in such battalions when it is suggested that Great Men can make a history-changing, or a religion-changing, or a science-changing difference? That they can by their own singular powers shift along the world that discernible bit?

The reasons for the death of Great Men are easy to hand and emotionally I am in sympathy with many of them. It was galling and seemed not only unjust but unlikely that the whole of English history could have been the work of a rather limited straggle of Great Men. Who were in the armies? Where were the economies, the plagues, the multiple thatchings of the interweaving strands of life? Marxism intellectualised, to some extent, the perceptions of those who simply could not accept that the primary forces in society were a few Greats who pulled all the levers. Society in all its complexity, the people with all their massive weight, the wider environment in its Hydra-headed unpredictability ... the permutations here far outgunned, surely, any life of a single puny man. Great Men were relegated to the margins of the new Universe every bit as remorselessly as the Earth itself has been relegated to the margins since the time of Copernicus.

MELVYN BRAGG

And yet the Earth is still, it seems to me, the centre of curiosity, of universal understanding. Might not, then, the Great Man be resurrected for a role, even a pivotal role in our narrative? Historians today are most reluctant to concede this. But not long ago Professor Alan Bullock rather grimly admitted that Hitler made an indisputable difference to 20th-century history. Chop Hitler down in the 1920s and all sorts of dreadful events might have happened, but nothing as dreadful, perhaps nothing even *like* that brought about because of Hitler.

Similarly with Caesar; had he not won the battle of the political generals, would there have been no difference? Would Pompeii, say, have destroyed the Republic as effectively as Caesar did? Was Caesar no more than a pimple on the body-politic of the day or was he truly, for a short time, the head and the will of it, commanding it on a different course?

In religion, too, would Christianity have taken hold without first Christ and then Constantine: or Islam without Muhammad? In these and other cases it is always possible to invoke society and inevitability. But what was inevitable about an ascetic Jewish anarchist in a remote satellite of the Roman world beginning a sect whose force, several hundred years later, influenced a British-born homosexual lover of Greek art to adopt this Christian cult as the Imperial religion? Surely this has to be explained in some significant measure by the character and power of the Galilean prophet and the Roman Emperor.

And is this wholly foreign to science? Einstein's admiration for Newton was such that he regarded him as an original begetter, one without whose work progress in science might well not have taken place in the way it did. To overemphasise Great Men too often is clearly a mistake. To underestimate the actions of some Great Men is surely no less mistaken.

The film of *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* is yet another example of PC gone mad, says **Daniel Britten**

Helena Bonham Carter and Richard E. Grant in a *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* that eschews social commentary in favour of romantic comedy

Who needs Orwell that ends well?

George Orwell must be turning in his grave. The man who proclaimed that truth is more important than politics has now had his novel *Keep the Aspidistra Flying* turned into the sort of trivial romantic comedy that he despised. It is part of a growing tendency among film-makers to bowdlerise literary texts, often along politically correct lines, with little regard for what the authors themselves might have said.

Orwell wrote *Aspidistra* when he was a struggling writer working part-time in a Hampstead bookshop. The hero of the novel is Gordon Comstock, a poverty-stricken young poet who is forced to abandon his career and return to his old job as an advertising copywriter. Gordon's girlfriend, Rosemary, threatens to leave him if he does not get a proper job, and he becomes obsessed with the idea that a man must conform to ideas of success in order to attract women. "Don't you see that a man's whole personality is bound up with his income?" he tells Rosemary. "His personality *is* his income. How can you be attractive to a girl when you've got no money?"

Orwell wrote the book after having himself been rejected by his fiancée, probably on financial grounds, and critics have traditionally seen Comstock as a deliberate attempt to create a cult of failure in men. In this sense he belongs to a long line of male rebels in 20th-century literature.

In the film, however, adapted by Alan Plater and Bob Bierman, gone is Orwell's passionate protest against the twin evils of capitalism and the sex war. Instead, Comstock, played by Richard E. Grant, has become a nerdy social misfit who finally accepts his responsibilities and settles down to a safe, middle-class existence. In addition, his girlfriend, Rosemary (Helena Bonham Carter), has been turned into a feisty 1990s career woman who convinces Gordon that his responsibility lies with the family, not poetry.

Bierman, also the film's director, says he had to make "structural changes" to the film in order to make it more accessible to a modern audience. As for reinterpreting Orwell's views on the sex war, Bierman claims that "Comstock, like Orwell, was a jerk about women" and that he was "far better off as a copywriter than he was as a poet".

It seems that the pressure on film-makers to make changes such as these is growing as political aspirations fuse with commercial considerations. Last year, in Roland Joffe's adaptation of Hawthorne's classic *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne, played by Demi Moore, became a spokeswoman for women's rights at a time when the emancipation of women hadn't even been heard of.

Similarly, in the forthcoming adaptation of *Sacred Hunger*, Barry Unsworth's novel about the slave trade, Sir Peter Hall was told by American investors to cut out all reference to black slave traders because they were afraid it would lose the film money at the box office. Hall resisted and Channel 4 eventually funded the entire project itself.

The controversy surrounding such changes raises the profound question as to whether a text should be altered simply because it no longer reflects the attitudes of the contemporary audience. The recent adaptation of Anthony Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time* was a perfect illustration of the confusion that now surrounds the issue. Hugh Whitemore, the adapter, was accused of covering up racism because he neglected to include the following passage: "It was the negro. He was grinning from ear to ear, now more like a nigger minstrel — a coon with bones and tambourine from some old-fashioned show on the pier at a seaside resort of the Victorian era — than his former dignified, well-groomed self." The passage is unquestionably offensive, but what would the furore have been had Whitemore included it?

Film-makers have traditionally had scant regard for the authenticity of an author's work, but it seems to have increased as respect for the written word diminishes. The paucity of good scripts appears to be forcing film-makers to cast the net ever wider in their search for ideas. It seems only a matter of time before we get the musical version of Orwell's *1984* or Marx's *Das Kapital* turned into a thriller.

Hall believes that there is something far more sinister at work. He argues that a kind of "puritanical Stalinism" is now invading the media, in which today's left-wing and liberal censorship has replaced the right-wing censorship of previous eras. This has not only begun to stifle freedom of speech, but is also preventing art from doing the things it should be doing naturally: challenging perceptions.

Bierman maintains that the changes he made to Orwell's book were justified because Orwell could not have anticipated what life in the 1990s would be like, and because they make for a better film. He sees Comstock less as a passionate advocate of men's rights and more as a comic representation of old sexist attitudes, arguing that Orwell would have found his adaptation "amusing".

In fact, Orwell loathed the type of Hollywood film that glosses over heartfelt social protest in favour of romantic comedy, and in his brief spell as a film reviewer condemned American producers for not having more faith in the intelligence of their audience: "It is always assumed that anything demanding thought, or even suggesting thought, must be avoided."

Professor Bernard Crick, the eminent Orwell biographer, says: "It is perfectly fatuous of modern film and theatre producers to believe that by updating things you are making it easier for a modern audience." In reality, he maintains, enforcing such homogeneity makes it harder for people to understand prejudice, not easier. Although he has not yet seen Bierman's film, he also points out that Orwell's message has lost none of its bite: "Comstock is not a Lucky Jim figure. He represents the serious hopes that Orwell had for the young poets and literary men of the 1930s who didn't succeed. He wanted them to be honoured for trying and perhaps failing, but he would never have turned them into comic caricatures."

Perhaps Orwell's message is simply too subtle for the modern imagination. In making Comstock reluctantly abandon his career as a poet, he recognised the insurmountability of the pressures on men that still exist, but which film-makers are reluctant to examine. It is no coincidence that he was one of the first to denounce the "ideologically correct" attitudes of 1930s politics. One wonders what he would have made of today's atmosphere of self-censorship.

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Symbolic Mozart

CONCERTS

STRANGE though it may sound, there was nothing contradictory about the European Mozart Foundation presenting an attractive programme of Fauré, Ravel and Chausson at its first London concert. Mozart's music is not a particular focus of this organisation, which aims to heal cultural and national divisions. But the name of the most universal of all composers is a most appropriate symbol.

Formed after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the European Mozart Foundation has concentrated on the power of music in the process of reconciliation. Its annual Academy, open to postgraduate students who are selected as much for their intellectual curiosity as virtuosity, seeks to put music in the context of history, poetry, philosophy and the visual arts.

Much of the foundation's activity has been in Eastern Europe, but this year it also launched a *Mostra Mozart* festival of chamber music in Venice, planned as an annual showcase for young talent. Performers in this Wigmore Hall concert represented both strands of the foundation's work: both the pianist John Blacklow and the Quartetto Prometeo, founded four years ago by musicians from the Italian Youth Orchestra, took part in the Venice festivities, and the highly gifted violinist Nurit Pacht attended the Academy in Cracow in 1995.

The players put on a display of spontaneous music-making in Chausson's *Concert* for violin, piano and string quartet. With the Prometeo's warm sound and Pacht's sensuous tone blending well, the Sicilienne was a movement of pure enchantment, and all six performers built the finale to an ecstatic close.

Pacht had already stamped her individuality on the concert in Fauré's A major Sonata, where she and Blacklow brought an effortless flow to the music. They surpassed themselves in a soaring account of Ravel's G major Sonata. Pacht's sultry, bittersweet playing of the blues movement confirmed that hers is a special artistry.

JOHN ALLISON

Borrowed clothes

EXCESSIVELY purist as it may seem, I can't help feeling that for Yo-Yo Ma to play just one original piece for cello — Brahms's Sonata in F — in his only London appearance this year was a wasted opportunity. Admittedly Stravinsky's *Suite Italienne* was an arrangement of *Pulcinella* made by the composer in collaboration with Piatigorsky, but it does not suit the instrument particularly well, while transcriptions of Bernstein, Gershwin and Astor Piazzolla were clearly aimed less at connoisseurs than at passing trade.

In the Brahms, Ma brought his lyrical gifts and rhetorical abandon to bear in a generally satisfying performance. What was curious, however, was the decision to leave the piano lid fully open. Ma's tone is not huge, that of his fine accompanist, Kathryn Stott, is not small. The balance between the two instruments was inevitably compromised.

The players' rapport in both Brahms and Stravinsky was nevertheless a joy. Indeed, it was even enhanced in the latter stages of Bernstein's Clarinet Sonata (transcribed by Ma), when the cellist's music went flying and he was obliged to peep over the pianist's shoulder. The lyrical impulse of the Grazioso and the driving rhythms of the Andantino are briefly combined in the second movement — Ma and Stott did the whole thing beautifully — but again there is no compelling reason for arranging either this piece, or Gershwin's Three Piano Preludes, for cello.

The final folly was the transcription of three pieces by Piazzolla, the prince of the bandoneon, whose music has become something of a cult — a bandoneon bandwagon. The tango is quintessential Piazzolla, but so is the sound of the bandoneon; on the cello it just doesn't sound seedy enough.

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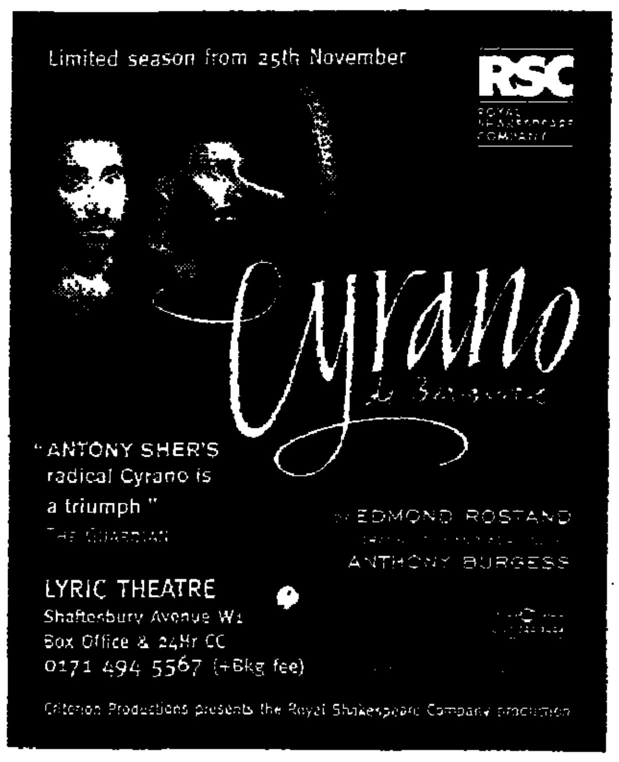

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BILL COOPER

Putting their all into Ashton's rustic romp: *La Fille mal gardée*, Scottish Ballet's new Christmas show, gives the dancers a chance to indulge in some of ballet's simpler pleasures

Having fun in the farmyard

DANCE

La Fille mal gardée

Theatre Royal, Glasgow

It was smiles all round last week as Scottish Ballet unveiled its new show for Christmas. This, after all, is the production that marks the company's relaunch after its recent near-fatal identity crisis. Made possible by the generosity of Birmingham Royal Ballet, which lent the Osbert Lancaster sets and costumes free of charge, the event is a chance for the company to prove that in Scottish Ballet Scotland does have a national arts institution worth saving. And the message from dancers and management alike was loud and clear: we're back in business and we're here to stay.

Of course, as wonderful as Ashton's farmyard comedy is, this isn't necessarily the production to signpost Scottish Ballet's future. We don't yet know what look the reborn company will have. The Scottish Arts Council, which precipitated the recent trauma when it rejected Galina Samsova's artistic vision, has made it clear that classical ballet on a grand scale is not welcome in Scotland. It remains to be seen what kind of alternative a new artistic director — still to be appointed — can offer.

For the time being, though, the dancers are putting their all into Ashton. *La Fille mal gardée* may not be as technically challenging as a *Swan Lake*, for instance, but it does give the company a chance to indulge in some of ballet's simpler pleasures.

There is also plenty of room for a joke well told, although Ashton's work is not best served by over-zealous larking about. This was something the two key comic figures misjudged on opening night. Guest star Wayne Sleep, making a rare appearance on the ballet stage, was the big name draw, taking the role of the simpleton Alain, a part he made his own at Covent Garden. In those days he gave us a fully fledged Alain, one who could make you laugh as he duetted with that silly red umbrella, and one who could make you sigh when he suddenly opened a window on to his loneliness. Now Sleep goes all out for laughs, a slick star turn impeccably executed but one that denies the pathos in Ashton's tenderly romantic tale.

Kenn Burke, on the other hand, could have milked the comedy more. As the panto-dame Widow Simone, Lise's socially ambitious mother, he needed to work at getting the fun into his face and crisper rhythms into his feet, especially in the showstopping clog dance.

Yurie Shinohara, as Lise, was well in tune with the charm of Ashton's writing, wonderfully secure of technique and increasingly captivating as the ballet progressed. Campbell McKenzie, though, was not an ideal Colas. He is a dancer who prefers the heft of choreography to the subtlety of Ashton's characterisation, and the gentle sensuality of the pas de deux with Shinohara was lost on him.

Most impressive was the corps. To a man and woman, their spirited and lusty participation enhanced every aspect of the production. In the pit, the Scottish Ballet Orchestra, conducted by Alan Barker, sounded very optimistic indeed, the strings deliciously sweet and the expression of love in Hérold's score given its full measure by the entire ensemble. Scottish Ballet may be on the cusp of radical change, but it is in rude performing health.

DEBRA CRAINE

THEATRE: Robert Wilson surpasses himself in the UK premiere of his new 'operetta'; and a legend gets mangled

A beauty beyond words

Saints and Singing

Belfast Festival

Belfast is disorientated. A blue neon diagonal glows from the wall of a derelict gasworks. Catholics play Protestants and Protestants play Catholics in fast-moving community theatre in a church hall. And play is momentarily suspended in a dark gym at the Maysfield Leisure Centre playing host to a Robert Wilson production never seen before in the United Kingdom.

To gaze at Hans-Peter Kuhn's latest sound-installation, *Blue*; to follow the dense, word-driven passion of Dock Ward Community Theatre's *Rebellion*; to wonder at Wilson's new "operetta", *Saints and Singing*, hot from the Hebbel-Theater Berlin — and all within 24 hours — is to experience a microcosm of this year's reinvented Belfast Festival. The work of international artists counterpoints daily with the city's own robust language and environment, and nowhere more tangily than in the space inhabited at the weekend by Wilson, Kuhn and their young cast from Berlin's Ernst Busch High School for Theatre Arts and the Giorgio Strehler Theatre School in Milan.

These *Saints* belong to the 1922 "scherzo in a landscape" by Gertrude Stein. Her texts, which play subversively with language, form and space, were Wilson's primary creative impulse as a director, and *Saints and Singing* is Wilson's supreme achievement to date. Its mime and movement levitate with an enviable lightness of being; its colours, lighting and sounds are sweet with a poignant joie de vivre.

The exquisitely tapered Wilson fingerprints are all there: the luminescent backdrops, the primary-colour spotlights, the fine limbs in silhouette, the slow, gliding curtains. And the tiny, fragmentary opera jokes — *Casta diva* in the recent London staging of *La Maladie de la mort*, and *O sole mio* here. But the formula receives new impetus from Kuhn's score. A series of numbers roll out with all the panache of a Broadway musical, chilled to meticulous perfection and wittily setting into relief the scherzos, alliteration and ritornelli — the little returns and repetitions — of the text.

Keyboard, bass and drums counterpoint with synthesized soundbites and volatile on-stage clarinet, trombone, recorder and accordion soloists. The score shifts constantly from background to foreground as Stein's sung, spoken and whispered words disintegrate, reintegrate and mock themselves and their audience on their journey through a mesmeric series of landscapes, still-lives and portraits.

To pin any one of them down with words would be to risk reduction or falsification. But from the opening monochrome Prologue of a priestly last supper in which the chalice appears to be fatally poisoned, to the glorious chlorophyll-lit finale in which each character reasserts his and her wry identity, this is an evening of sheer beauty, sheer fun.

HILARY FINCH

Mythology in a spin

Orpheus

Lyric Studio

THE omens are grim in Kenneth McLeish's retelling of the Orpheus myth. The torches are smoking and the rivers have run backwards at least twice. Orpheus's wedding to Eurydice has given way to a frenzy of grief. She has been fatally bitten by a snake after being pursued by a sailor and Orpheus is left slapping the floor in rage.

Actors gnash their teeth, writhe on the floor and eat dust. Nick Philippou's production for ATC deploys the fervent art of declamatory theatre as if it were suddenly all the fashion. What he doesn't deploy is a single empathetic personality. Surely the point of Orpheus is that he is the first pop star. This Orpheus plays not a single note of music. His tortoiseshell lyre looks as if it was put together on *Blue Peter*. And his desire to go and fetch his wife from Hades is the act of a petulant youth.

From the depth of the overacting it is clear that this show cannot survive on McLeish's verse alone. The venerable translator might be pickled in Ancient Greek, but his attempt to add a "modern psychological" spin to a classical myth is a stinker.

Philippou might have harnessed the histrionics to quite eerie effect if he set the play in a lunatic asylum rather than this inconsequential muddle in the round. It would certainly make Orpheus's Nietzschean spiritual denial — "I cancel them all, they don't exist, they're dead" — infinitely more resonant. Especially as Gary Turner delivers it dressed as if he had spent the last four millennia in bandages. Matthew Wait does a neat drug-addled cameo as Dionysus, but the soothsayers get the best lines. According to the Sibyl, Orpheus's mother and her female followers have yet to tear him to pieces, nail his head to his lyre and chuck his remains in the sea. Some girls have all the luck.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Learning worn lightly

JAZZ

Ben Sidran

Pizza Express, W1

Halfway through his first set, Ben Sidran, attempting to pour oil on troubled waters by "adjudicating" between patrons who clearly had differing standards of audience quietness, quoted the late drummer Art Blakey: "People don't go to jazz clubs to be educated, but to be entertained."

Coming from a pianist who published, in 1971, *Black Talk* — a highly acclaimed, thought-provoking study of the music of Black America inspired by reading McLuhan on Western cultures and Wittgenstein on semantics — this might have seemed a little out of character. But Sidran is also the man who launched his record label, Go Jazz, by quoting the old blues lyric: "If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong."

To judge by this latter criterion, Sidran's performance was entirely successful. Although he is clearly steeped in a deep knowledge of, and love for, jazz and blues, he wears his learning lightly enough. And he is sufficiently personable in his stage presentation to impart a surprising amount of jazz arcana entirely painlessly to the most single-minded pleasure-seeker.

Thus, after acclimatising himself and his band — saxophonist Tim Garland, bassist Geoff Gascoyne, drummer Ralph Salmins — with a lively instrumental and a brief visit to the work of one of his chief influences, Mose Allison, Sidran wove a paean to the soul-cleansing effects of jazz into an original inspired by Ben Webster's version of the tender Billy Strayhorn ballad, *Chelsea Bridge*, and followed that with a song dedicated to — and mentioning by name — his 43 favourite piano players.

Sidran's nearest British equivalent is Georgie Fame, with whom he shares not only a successful pop past (Sidran was a close collaborator with guitarist Steve Miller, writing *Space Cowboy* and other songs with him in the late 1960s) but also a penchant for vocalese. So it was no surprise when Fame joined him for a vigorous jam.

Then it was back to Sidran's vocals. Sometimes they were spoken, as in an amusing disquisition on the three elements most important to jazz (a failed romance, a good travel agent and seafood). And sometimes they were sung, as in a shuffle version of Billie Holiday's *God Bless the Child*, an infectiously lively adaptation of a composition by the boogie-woogie master Freddie Slack.

As Art Blakey suggested, jazz club patrons might well prefer entertainment to education. With Ben Sidran they receive healthy doses of each.

CHRIS PARKER

This week in THE TIMES

■ OPERA

Carmen Oprisanu sings Rosina in the Royal Opera *Barber* at the Shaftesbury

OPENS: Tonight

REVIEW: Wednesday

■ THEATRE

Twelfth Night, with Helen Schlesinger as Viola, opens in Stratford-upon-Avon

OPENS: Tomorrow

REVIEW: Thursday

■ DANCE

Merce Cunningham's aquatic opus *Ocean* is at the Belfast Festival

OPENS: Thursday

REVIEW: Monday

■ FILM

Sally Potter takes steps towards love in her new movie *The Tango Lesson*

RELEASED: Friday

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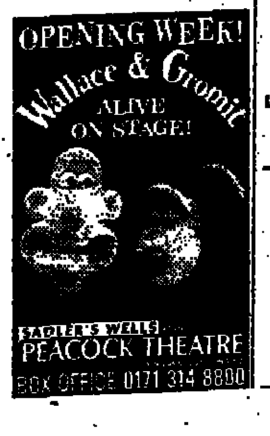

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You, too, can help to save London

Richard Rogers on an intriguing initiative to reinvigorate the capital

When the Culture Secretary Chris Smith launches the Architecture Foundation's computer archive known as London Interactive today, a significant step will be taken to involve Londoners in the future of their city.

Nine out of ten Britons now live in cities, most of them communities of more than 100,000 people. This startling statistic reveals us to be predominantly urbanised — yet we see ourselves as a rural people who only grudgingly accept city life. This perception has led to the widespread neglect of cities and threatened the countryside, as more and more people flee to the supposed arcadian delights of a house and garden in an idyllic village, surrounded by green, rolling and ever-unspoilt countryside.

The countryside and the city are, however, two sides of the same coin. Both demand our vigilance, but it is the spread of cities and the inefficient manner in which they function that is the most fundamental threat to the quality of urban and rural life. Only by investing in the quality of city living can we consolidate urban communities, while protecting the countryside.

We are told that Britain needs 4.4 million new households by 2020, the equivalent of another London spreading across the country. If the pressure to build these new homes in the countryside is not resisted, we will see an inevitable erosion of that countryside and a huge outflow of funds from city centres. And the problems will not stop there. New developments outside existing towns and cities imply a massive exodus of families, schools, services and shops from areas which are in many cases already deprived of resources and desperate for cash. Worse still would be the pollution caused by thinly spread development relying on cars rather than public transport.

This is a worldwide problem; cities, particularly those in the West, create the lion's share of global pollution. As a result, not only the global ecology is damaged, but the local environment and the quality of urban life suffer, too. Cities can be designed to be far more efficient with the use of energy, water and other resources and their impact on the environment can be reduced — but they must be planned to do so. Recycling, for example, is a component of urban strategy. Some cities of North America and northern Europe already recycle up to 75 per cent of their waste. London, by contrast, recycles at most 5 per cent.

Stemming the flow of people and resources from cities requires us to improve the quality of life in them by creating vibrant meeting places, and by making them more attractive, healthier, safer and greener — all principles of sustainable development.

Britain's cities contain between 5 and 20 per cent of derelict or under-used land. A good proportion of this is in small-scale sites, but there are also large areas of dereliction, often on post-industrial polluted sites — the so-called brownland. London is no exception. It contains 14 of England's 20 poorest boroughs, within them much socially alienating and divisive dereliction. It is precisely in those boroughs that help is needed to improve links, create parks, erect cultural buildings and develop affordable housing. But where are these sites? What do they look like, and what can be done with them?

Little information on cities is available in digestible form. This means that many important political and developmental decisions are taken based on information which is either hard to grasp or simply inaccessible. Why, for example, was the Millennium Experience sited in London on part of the Greenwich peninsula? Precisely because it is one of those very large, post-industrial brownland sites that provide a magnificent opportunity to develop a a sustainable, compact, live-work community. The dome is only one component of the redevelopment of the peninsula and the regenerative effect the project is having on Greenwich, one of London's poorer boroughs, with very high levels of unemployment, is already palpable.

It is impossible to debate the way in which we nurture our future communities unless real information is accessible and coherently presented. And it is here that the London Interactive initiative is so crucial. Its centrepiece is the transformation of the Architecture Foundation's gallery space into a public gateway to information on London.

Hayes Davidson — a practice specialising in computerised architectural imaging — has created a digital model, based on aerial and satellite photography. Information can be accessed on terminals on projects, initiatives, buildings, transport and important areas of potential development. An opportunity is provided for members of the public and experts to research the macro and micro issues facing the capital. Clicking on to sites of interest reveals statistics, images and information. With continual "layering" of further information, London Interactive will become the capital's first comprehensive and living archive.

Presentation of information in such publicly accessible form is a first step in responding to the widespread interest shown during last year's public debates on London organised by the Architecture Foundation. It will provide a key to the complexities of city planning, a tool for information, visualisation, research and teaching. And, once established, it will provide a blueprint for further interactive models on other British cities. Focusing attention on improving our cities is critical to the future of our people and their natural environment. It is also a first but important step to reducing our impact on our planet's delicate ecology.

London Interactive is open to the public from tomorrow at the Architecture Foundation, 30 Bury Street, London SW1. Cities for a small Planet, *by Richard Rogers, edited by Philip Gumuchdjian, is published by Faber and Faber.*

Asian economic turmoil — plus an unlikely sex scandal — could have a devastating impact on the West

Does Mrs A spell ruin for us all?

William Rees-Mogg

When Lyndon Johnson was President, the White House used to defend American involvement in the Vietnam War by the so-called "domino" effect. That was the geo-political theory that a Communist victory in South Vietnam would be followed by a complete takeover in South-East Asia: Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos would be followed by Thailand, Malaysia, perhaps Singapore and Indonesia, perhaps even Australia. The Communists did conquer South Vietnam, but the dominoes did not all fall.

Now it is fashionable to describe the financial crisis in Asia as another domino effect. Unfortunately that would be much more plausible. Today President Clinton is having talks with Asian leaders at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation Forum in Vancouver. They will be discussing the currency devaluations, banking crises and stock market falls which have been spreading from one Asian country to another. The first of all was Thailand in early July; several other dominoes have already fallen, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Korea. Now there is a nasty wobble in Japan. Hong Kong has not been forced to cut the link to the dollar, but the property and stock markets have been affected.

President Clinton is open about his fear that the financial contagion could spread to the United States. On his way to Vancouver he emphasised that the Asian and American economies were linked. "With such deep stakes in the region, our security and economic interests must go hand in hand . . . one of our top priorities will be the strengthening and stabilising of Asian financial markets so that their economies and ours stay on the right track."

It is Japan which matters most. The Japanese economy is second in size only to that of the United States; Japan is an extremely successful world exporter, with a large and rising trade surplus with the United States; Japanese savings provide the basis for the whole of international finance; without Japanese investment, the finances of the United States, particularly the federal bond market, would be destabilised. If the Japanese domino falls, the American and European dominoes are unlikely to stay upright. The global economy would then be facing a recession, perhaps even a slump. That was what happened in the early 1930s; the great slump started with the failure of the Kredit Anstalt, an Austrian bank.

Although President Clinton recognises the danger, he is by no means the master of the global economy. He re-emphasised yesterday that American policy has two pillars. One is that each individual nation "must take responsibility for putting sound economic polices in place"; the other is that the IMF and not America must be the provider of external funds.

There will be no American bail-out. In the case of Japan this may not matter; in terms both of the current account and of capital reserves, Japan is richer than the United States. Japan, as such, does not need bailing out: the Japanese banking system does. The trouble started with the great Japanese boom of the 1980s. That was the decade when the Japanese stock market went through the roof; the Japanese have been big savers since the war, and their flow of savings pushed asset values absurdly high. By the late 1980s it was being said that the notional real estate value of the Emperor's garden in Tokyo was equal to that of the state of Florida. The banks loaned Japanese companies cheap money to buy shares and property at these values, and that lending pushed the asset prices still higher. Interest rates were so low that it seemed almost criminal not to borrow; some of the people who did borrow have turned out actually to be criminals.

Throughout the 1990s the Japanese economy has been suffering from the hangover. The banks took as their security, even from borrowers who were honest, assets which are now worth between a quarter and a half of their 1989 valuation. Eight years later, the mess has not been sorted out, even though Japanese exporters have continued to be highly successful. Japanese voters have not wanted to see the big banks bailed out with taxpayers' money. One cannot blame them.

For eight years the Japanese have hoped that the situation would be corrected, that ultra-low interest rates would refloat the banks, that the stock market would recover — as it did for a time, though never to its 1989 level — and that the property market would be stabilised. The Japanese Government did its rather ineffective best, but failed to resolve the problem. The Japanese economy was already looking weak when the Thai crisis occurred last July. South-East Asia is important to Japan, because of the large Japanese investments and because it is a big export market and an export competitor. The fall of the smaller dominoes jarred South Korea, which in its turn has threatened Japan, the second largest domino of them all.

Naturally the weak institutions have failed first. Last week it was Yamaichi, one of Japan's big four stockbrokers: its failure amounts to about £15 billion, which is large even by Japanese standards. After eight years, the Japanese Ministry of Finance has failed to strengthen the financial structure of the country. It now has what looks to be the last chance. There is not going to be a spontaneous recovery in Japanese confidence; things have gone too far.

Either the Japanese Government will find a way to underwrite the big banks so that their credit has been put beyond doubt, or the panic can be expected to spread and get worse. That is the judgment that President Clinton will be putting to the Japanese Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, in Vancouver. Unfortunately, Mr Hashimoto's political position, which would be difficult enough in any case, has been weakened by a sex scandal. That is unusual in Japan, where a French view of politicians' private lives usually prevails. Unfortuantely "Mrs A", as the Japanese press is calling her, is Chinese; even more unfortunately, she is alleged to have been on the staff of the Chinese security agency responsible for spying on Japan. Mr Hashimoto admits knowing Mrs A, though he told Parliament: "I was not seeing her with the idea that she was an intelligence agent." As a distraction, this scandal comes at the worst possible moment. It would be a pity if Mrs A inadvertently caused a world slump.

If Japan fails, we would have to look carefully at the stability of the European Union and the United States. Both have very highly priced stock markets; despite its resistance to the earlier Asian shocks, Wall Street would have a long way to fall if Japan went into financial collapse.

Of course, one thinks, the Japanese will get it right in the end. Human beings are not crazy, they react to events: the Japanese do not want their system to collapse. That is what I do think: indeed, the timing of the Yamaichi announcement suggests that the Japanese authorities are more in control of events than might appear. The announcement was made on Saturday; Today is a holiday in Japan. The Ministry of Finance has until tomorrow morning to prepare and announce the measures it will take. If they are adequate then the world will breathe a sigh of relief, and the Japanese banking system will have been saved. If not, a game of Japanese roulette will have turned out rather badly.

Wrestling with the demons

Moral crusades do not make the world a safer place, says Peter Riddell

The Blair Government is turning out to be remarkably conservative, even traditional, in its foreign policy. Forget all the glib talk about the rebranding of Britain, and even Robin Cook's new "ethical dimension". The basics are little changed. There has, admittedly, been a shift in attitudes towards Europe, and relations have improved. But the aim is still for Britain, in Douglas Hurd's memorable phrase, to "punch above its weight in the world", to be a global player via our seat on the United Nations Security Council, as opposed to acting just via Europe. Over the past three weeks, Britain has remained as staunch, and lonely, an ally of the United States in its confrontation with Saddam Hussein as it was in the Thatcher and Major years. And, on Friday, Mr Cook delivered a robust brush-off to Spain over Gibraltar. Palmerston would have approved.

The rhetoric of modernisation — the Mission Statement video and Mr Cook's brisk style — has obscured continuities of policy, and exaggerated differences. It is understandable that Mr Cook wants to be a new broom sweeping away stuffy and closed habits in the Foreign Office — and there is a lot more to be done. But, so far, there has been little evidence of any real rethinking of where Britain's interests lie in the post-Cold War era.

By chance, Lord Hurd of Westwell has just raised many of these issues in a compelling television series on BBC2, *The Search for Peace*, which he has developed in a more discursive book of the same title. The two are complementary. Lord Hurd's theme, reinforced by vivid archive film, is the interplay of realism and idealism in explaining the success of the Vienna settlement after Waterloo (with some breakdowns), the failure of the Versailles settlement after the First World War, and the relative success (at least for Western Europe) of the 1945 settlement. He is most criticial of the idealists and moralists, notably Woodrow Wilson and John Foster Dulles.

This is, in part, an Anglicised version of Henry Kissinger's *Diplomacy* — and Dr K is one of the star interviewees. Lord Hurd is often seen as the epitome of the Foreign Office realist working with the grain of the world as it is. While he was more right than his critics over Bosnia, British policy became too passive and hand-wringing in the pre-Dayton period.

However, the striking feature of

[illegible]

The Search for Peace is how Lord Hurd accepts the case for international involvement in problems short of war between states. This is partly to deal with those countries, such as Iraq and North Korea, which may build nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. But he sees the main danger to peace as lying in civil wars, and he now concedes that the doctrine of non-interference, with which he grew up as a young diplomat, has worn out, largely because everyone can see pictures of horrors. This can lead to the dangers of what he has called "CNN diplomacy", and demands that "something must be done" that are too often little more than emotional self-indulgence.

There is not yet any agreed doctrine to justify intervention. Some have talked of intervening only when horrors threaten to cross boundaries and threaten peace in a region. This would, Lord Hurd argues, justify action over Rwanda, conceivably Bosnia, but not Somalia, Liberia or Angola. Others have talked of intervening where slaughter is on a scale amounting to genocide. There can be no clear universal rules. It will depend on the pressures, and chances of success. Bosnia also shows the reluctance of other countries to commit troops, and risk casualties, to impose peace, rather than to keep it after the warring parties have been exhausted.

But Bosnia, at least post-Dayton, also points to a more positive way forward, with the UN providing the authorisation for intervention which is implemented by a regional organisation such as Nato. Last night's final film showed the example of Eastern Slavonia, where the American General Klein heads a UN team running a district of 150,000 Serbs and Croats in rebuilding civic services. Lord Hurd suggests that this kind of international trusteeship may be needed in countries or areas where government has collapsed.

This approach offers a sensible blend of realism and idealism which should appeal to Mr Cook. Indeed, the Foreign Secretary has recently played down references to an "ethical foreign policy", words which he has never used, and talked more of enlightened self-interest.

So far, the "ethical dimension", his preferred term, has amounted to the pursuit of alleged war-criminals in Bosnia (though not yet the big names), a stronger line on banning landmines, stopping the export of weapons of torture, and the cancellation of two very small arms contracts to Indonesia. The announcement of the latter just before the Labour conference was widely seen as a gesture to please party activists — and was reluctantly accepted by the Ministry of Defence on that basis. But there has been no real change in Britain's position as a major arms exporter.

The hype has irritated his predecessors, such as Lord Hurd: "If you alter the course of policy by two or three degrees and pretend that you are altering it by 180 degrees, you achieve some immediate applause from those who know little about the matter. You also store up difficulties for yourself as your claims to a superior morality bump into the roughness of the real world." Mr Cook is, at heart, a realist. His sense of irony should deter him from talking about the "People's Foreign Policy". But there are also dangers in adopting moralistic rhetoric. There are solid, national interest grounds for preventing Saddam Hussein from threatening the rest of us with biological and chemical weapons. It hinders, rather than assists, clear-sighted policymaking to present this as an ethical matter. Intervention may be right, but not a moral crusade.

THE TIMES DIARY

Pour relations

THE RUDE health of the Queen has failed to impress Britain's marquesses: they are already squabbling about who will pour the wine at the Prince of Wales's coronation banquet.

Protocol dictates that the rather servile task be carried out by the Chief Butler of Ireland, an hereditary title invented by Henry II and meted out to one of his more sycophantic subjects. It was last held by the Marquess of Ormonde, who died in Chicago last month aged 98. He had no issue.

Drink, Sir? Charles, Mountgarret

Enter Lord Mountgarret of Harrogate (Eton, Irish Guards, three wives), who descends, apparently, from Henry VII and wants the job. "If there is any likelihood whatsoever that I can prove my claim then I will," says Mountgarret, 60, a determined sort of chap who once shot down a hot-air balloon for disturbing one of his pheasant shoots.

While Mountgarret and his lawyers trawl through *Burke's Peerage*, the College of Arms is loudly dismissing their cause. "This is nonsense," says the Richmond Herald. "He and Ormonde shared one common ancestor back in the 16th century — it's just not good enough. There are hundreds of Ormondes with much stronger claims. What's so special about this one?"

The dispute might yet be settled by Prince Charles. "George IV's Chief Butler poured out so much wine at the coronation that everyone was under the table," says someone called Lord Dunboyne. "It was most undignified. If Charles has got any sense he won't have a banquet at all." "

● *IT was noted here, and later elsewhere, that guests were growing peckish at the dinner to celebrate Lord Sainsbury's 70th birthday as they waited some time for their grub. Some guests unfairly blamed this on the late arrival of Princess Margaret. I am now assured that she was advised to arrive a little after the normal dining hour.*

Taylor made

ELIZABETH TAYLOR's extraordinary prowess at renewing her husbands has been formally acknowledged in Japan, where a magazine has been named after her. The subject? Divorce, and how to go about it. *Liz*, the first issue of which sold 50,000 copies last month, offers advice on finding the best divorce lawyer, being a single parent, and, well, being like Ms Taylor.

● *THERE are hard hearts among the cast of* Otello. *Last week found them dress-rehearsing at the Royal Albert Hall. The end was in sight, when 10 o'clock struck and the entire cast downed tissues and went home. "They had been told it would finish at 10," explains a stuffed tuxedo, "and they knew the Royal Opera House couldn't afford to pay them overtime."*

No show

APPEASING the culinary principles of Linda McCartney is an expensive business. Last month she agreed to attend a £6,000-a-head dinner for the New York charity, Citymeals-on-Wheels, on one condition: no one in the room was to eat fish or meat. Sooner than lose their only celebrity guest, the organisers capitulated and served up a depressing sort of dinner — organic carrots, shallow-fried bean-sprouts, all Linda's favourites. Sadly, she never turned up. Says a deflated charity bod: "She decided to stay in England and help her husband with some music project."

"The UN chemical weapons inspectors are here"

Batting on

A CONGENIAL winter is in store for John Major. The cricketing fanatic and sometime PM will jet out to Jamaica in January to support our boys against the West Indies. Major's knowledge of the game is legendary and the Windies have invited him to address the opening banquet in Kingston. England could do with a lucky mascot.

Disaster movie

THE etiquette of RSVPing continues to elude the Royal Mail, which appears to have botched next week's premiere of *The Tango Lesson*, a film by the British director Sally Potter. Some 10,000 invitations were sent out to London's low-budget flick set, bidding them attend the screening in Chelsea, followed by a £50-a-head party at the Fulham Town Hall — *pina coladas*, Swansea dancing troupes, that sort of thing.

Problem: "The Royal Mail forgot to set up a PO box," claims a deflated voice at the film's producers, Adventure Pictures. "They returned every reply and cheque to sender. It is a disaster. We've booked the town hall, we've paid the musicians, but no one's coming."

Peers awake

THOSE somnolent crossbench peers have at last been roused into action: they have held a secret crisis meeting in response to Labour's sporadic threats to introduce an elected second chamber. More than 100 hereditary and life peers are believed to have attended.

The defence will be led by Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker. "Tony Blair has already agreed that our 322 Members will hold the balance of influence in any vote," he says confidently. Weatherill's army might turn nasty. "Do we need so many MPs?" he demands. "You can't change one House and not the other."

Helena: undress rehearsal

● *THE ART of undressing men has yet to be mastered by Helena Bonham Carter, who has been cavorting with Linus Roache on the set of a rather salacious drama,* Wings of the Dove. *"I had to take his trousers off," she says. "It's very difficult. I got hysterical when I couldn't get his long-johns over his feet. It looked as if I was laughing because I'd just taken his trousers down but I hadn't even looked. I was so discreet."*

JASPER GERARD

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BROWN AND GREEN

The Treasury should open up the Budget box

The Chancellor's statement to the House of Commons tomorrow will say much about the state of the economy. Most of that message will be positive and popular: steady growth; stable inflation; rising tax revenues and lower public borrowing. However, it will also speak volumes about this Government's commitment to a more open and inclusive style of politics. This has been billed as the "green Budget" — a conscious consultative event which allows Gordon Brown to offer his thinking and key policy options well in advance of the final Finance Act. If so, it would go well beyond the standard analysis and information that the Treasury has historically offered.

Almost every Opposition has favoured open government: invariably, once it is elected its enthusiasm ebbs away. The theoretical advantages of a provisional Budget, or at least an initial set of ideas, are great. It allows policy to be constructed by consultation. Expertise outside the Treasury can have a real impact. Mistakes made in the past might be anticipated. The circulation of relevant data might oblige all parties to be rather more realistic. Parliament as an institution can have the opportunity to involve itself in the whole enterprise. The electorate at large can be much better *informed*.

There have, though, always been powerful objections. Secrecy, for all its faults, has certain persuasive virtues. A Chancellor who was too frank, too far in advance, especially on matters of personal taxation, could cause a stampede into various schemes for avoidance. Candour, if delivered in too strong a measure, unleashes a multitude of lobbyists to agitate for or against the particular change under consideration. These are not insignificant factors. Until Kenneth Clarke entered the Treasury they were thought important enough to enforce absolute silence from the Chancellor for months before the Budget. Mr Brown has doubtless heard the calls for caution.

These difficulties are real but they are not decisive. In practice, both avoidance and lobbying have already existed for decades. In an atmosphere of uncertainty supplemented by leak and rumour, accountants and tax lawyers probably wield more power — and command even higher fees — than would be the case if some light entered the exercise. As for lobbyists, the whole point of consultation is that Government should take account of good arguments and reject bad ones.

On public spending, Mr Brown would be wise to be reticent tomorrow. The merest indication that there might be money available will send anxious backbenchers and aspiring beneficiaries into overdrive. On taxation, however, Mr Brown can be more reflective. He has already intimated what he might do with the lowest levels of income tax. He should have little fear about exploring corporation tax reform and capital gains tax reconstruction with similar vigour. His commendable interest in an earned income tax credit for the working poor should be developed.

One of Mr Brown's virtues is that he wears waffle badly. He should, therefore, do his utmost to avoid it. This is not an easy balance to strike, but he can afford to err on the side of transparency. In a time of boom it would be easy for the Chancellor to engage in self-congratulation. But if Mr Brown really wants to leave his mark on British politics, then he should be interested in the conduct of economic policy as well as its *short-term* calculations. The Treasury has been described as the "black hole" of the Whitehall network — nobody outside understands what happens within. Now is the time for some creative astronomy.

MUGGED BY MUGABE

Zimbabwe cannot afford to lose its white farmers

In the 17 years since majority rule was established, Zimbabwe's remaining white farmers have become accustomed to threats from Robert Mugabe. It has long been his public promise to seize their land and hand it over to impoverished black citizens. The *damage this would do to Zimbabwe's* prosperity has always restrained him in practice. It appears, though, with the publication of an initial list of 1,700 properties, that he might carry out his commitment. The 4,000 farmers left expect to lose almost everything. This nominal crusade against colonialists will, if executed, confirm Zimbabwe's drift towards the disasters of African dictatorship.

Mr Mugabe's slogan seems to be confiscation without compensation. He has said that "not one cent" would be paid to those affected. He has not been entirely consistent on the matter. At times he has argued that Britain should be sent the bill or that there would be a package based on local currency and states bonds — neither of which is attractive. The Lancaster House agreement of 1979 guaranteed that land could only be transferred on a "willing buyer, willing seller" basis. That provision expired seven years ago. It is very unlikely that Mr Mugabe will adhere to it now.

The timing of this announcement reflects Zimbabwe's dire economic condition. The country has recently suffered from an intense set of industrial strikes themselves the result of rampaging inflation. Average real wages have fallen by 40 per cent between 1990 and 1996. Those conflicts were only quelled by excessive wage settlements that will eventually put further pressure on prices. Unemployment officially stands at 33 per cent, four times the rate it was when Mr Mugabe was first elected. Living standards have made minimal progress during the independence era. The Government has decided that white farmers will serve as the scapegoats.

In truth, it is the Government's own *policies that have created this crisis. For ten* years, Mr Mugabe ran a statist economy. In 1991 he reluctantly surrendered to reality and sought outside assistance. His failure to implement the promised programme of liberalisation and privatisation led the IMF and the World Bank to suspend that help two years ago. Since then, further half-hearted reform plans have been drawn up while protectionist measures have been deployed in practice. Mr Mugabe's Marxist instincts make it unlikely that foreign investors will take Zimbabwe seriously. With his de facto one-party state the President will doubtless ignore the criticism.

This has all been made worse by widespread government corruption and rumours of corruption. Were there a viable alternative available, Mr Mugabe would have difficulty remaining in office.

Increasingly unpopular at home and isolated abroad, Mr Mugabe may think he has little to lose by throwing out his white farmers. Zimbabwe, however, would feel the effects soon enough. The output of these estates constitutes 40 per cent of national export. They employ more people than could be resettled in the same area. The country would court the status of a Fourth World economy. Black and white alike will suffer no matter how much land is redistributed. Britain is, at the moment, Zimbabwe's most consistent aid donor. If Mr Mugabe fulfils his reckless scheme, then he should not see another cent of that money.

NEW DAY OF THE BOOK

Congratulations and great expectations for the British Library

Monday, November 24, 1997, will be a red-letter day in intellectual history. Future generations will mark it as significant as 596, when St Augustine opened the first library at Canterbury; as 1476, when Caxton set up his press near Westminster Abbey; and as 1753, when the British Museum was established. For today the humanities reading room is opened in the new British Library. The first readers will take their seats at their leather-topped desks with plugs for computers, sockets for modems and a light to signal that their books have arrived.

This modern cathedral of the book has been famously difficult to build. The most expensive building ever built in Britain opens eight years late and has cost almost five times its original budget of £116 million. In his "monstrous carbuncle" phase, the Prince of Wales said that it reminded him of the an academy for secret policemen, and the House of Commons National Heritage Committee compared *it to* "a Babylonian ziggurat seen through a funfair distorting mirror". Then there were the monstrous misadventures with old and new technology. Two hundred miles of moving bookshelves were found to judder and spill books; 5,000 sprinkler heads were replaced because they were rusty; and 2,000 miles of electrical wiring had to be ripped out and replaced.

But the main fault *found with the new* library was that it was not the old Reading Room of the British Museum. Two centuries had turned that into a world shrine for readers and writers. And those who passed their lives there, augmenting its freight with their own books, are both legend and history. Such diverse talents as Marx and Freud, Dickens and Nehru, and Wilde and Shaw changed our world under that dome.

The new library cannot compete with it for legends or romance — yet. But it is a modern workshop of the book, where readers and writers can find the ideas with legs for the next millennium. The books will be kept under a single roof instead of being shunted around 17 depositories. They will be stored at the optimum temperature and humidity for conservation rather than for decay. They will be delivered mechanically and quickly instead of after a delay of weary man-hours. The historic collections and manuscripts of the ages are still where they should be: at the core of the library. But the desks are hooked into the information technology of the future. The first readers today will find themselves in a 21st-century laboratory of the book, efficient as well as beautiful. More than other artefacts, books must change with the new world or die.

The British can be cold towards new buildings. Wren took as long to build St Paul's as the British Library has taken. And he was put on half-pay for ten years and then sacked. When the new Houses of Parliament were built, Disraeli declared that the architect should be hanged in public. After its stormy birth, the new British Library opens its doors today. In its field of the book, it is as important a public building as St Paul's and the Houses of Parliament.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Friedman taken to task on euro

From Sir Samuel Goldman

Sir, Dr Milton Friedman ("Why Europe can't afford the euro", November 19) is wrong. His argument is flawed because he fails to recognise that most of the adjustments in exchange rates over the last fifty years have been the result of errors and extravagancies in fiscal and monetary policies, often politically or electorally inspired. These have produced divergencies and strains in the economies concerned which have enforced devaluations (sometimes revaluations) as well as sharp and often disconcerting reversals of economic policy.

What the Maastricht and Amsterdam treaties (which may well come to be considered as among the most important in modern European history) aim to achieve is a degree of convergence in the economies of the European Union countries that will remove once and for all the principal causes of, and the need for, exchange-rate adjustments typical of the era of the great inflation.

Mechanisms will still be needed to deal with misfortunes of one kind or another to which member countries sharing a common currency will be subject. But a *Union* with a gross domestic product considerably greater than that of the United States should not find such a task beyond its will or its capacity.

Yours faithfully,
S. GOLDMAN,
3 Little Tangley,
Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey.
November 19.

From Mr Paul Thomas

Sir, Having spent all this afternoon bogged down in the complexities of currency blocs, "snakes", DM zones, adjustment mechanisms, convergence criteria and EMU, I was truly underwhelmed when one of my Oxbridge pupils casually observed that the whole question of monetary union had been expounded with great clarity by Professor Friedman in *The Times* this morning.

She promptly outlined and dissected the good professor's arguments, attacked my thesis and offered me 35 pence to buy a copy. Should I be grateful to her and to you?

Yours sincerely,
PAUL THOMAS,
St Paul's Girls' School
(Economics department),
Brook Green, W6.
November 19.

From Mr Gareth Knowles

Sir, Obviously EMU is partly politically driven. However, there are also very powerful economic counter-arguments — trade advantages, low interest rates and currency stability among them. These arguments, too, have been abused politically in the past; but that is no excuse for Professor Friedman dismissing them.

Yours etc,
GARETH KNOWLES,
2 Sol-aire,
East Bracklesham Drive,
Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex.

Patten and Hague

From Mr Christopher Patten

Sir, Doubtless for reasons of space, your front-page report headlined (later editions) "Heseltine and Patten gang up on Hague" on November 22 quoted only the final two sentences of what I wrote in *The Economist Year Book* about Europe, which was itself only one paragraph in a short essay entitled "Hague starts the ascent".

The paragraph reads as follows. Having noted that "The road back to Westminster should start for Tories in the town halls of Britain", I went on: "It won't start in Brussels, either by trying to love it more or hate it better. For the time being, given the present difference between Britain's perception of itself and its place in the world, and the nature of the current Franco-German project, we are doomed to rather grumpy relations with our current European colleagues. That is bound to change either if Franco-German plans succeed, or if they do not. We should not make this irritable association the centre-piece of modern Toryism. Mr Hague should avoid the nasty right wing nationalism found elsewhere in Europe. Being tainted with it would ensure only that Mr Blair's tenure of his present position is much longer than Mr Hague would like."

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS PATTEN,
Montbretal, St Martin-Laguépie,
81170 Cordes, France.
November 22.

Just a slip

From Mr Dick Campain

Sir, "Atmospheric conditions affecting adhesion of rolling stock . . ." Come on Connex *South* Central; plainspeak please. El Niño would have been more plausible!

Yours faithfully,
DICK CAMPAIN,
38 Redstone Park, Redhill, Surrey.
d.campain@ic.ac.uk

Sport letters, page 36

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Measures to cut NHS waiting lists

From Sir Bryan Thwaites

Sir, There is only one "radical change" (for which you call in your leading article today, "Why are we waiting?") which, by government action, will solve the waiting list problem: the explicit acceptance that a comprehensive National Health Service free at the point of delivery is no longer practical, and hence that rationing is inescapable.

Over forty years ago a committee of inquiry into the cost of the National Health Service (Cmd 9663, 1956) considered this dilemma, and since then there has grown up a massive literature on the problem. An annual widening of the gap between resources and demand and the consequent need for rationing have long been inevitable; but no government has yet had the courage overtly to accept that inevitability. Let Mr Dobson, therefore, now show his mettle.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN THWAITES,
Milnthorpe,
Winchester, Hampshire.
November 19.

From Dr Ian Sykes

Sir, As lead partner in a local fundholding practice, I am pleased to report that none of our patients currently has to wait more than nine months for a routine operation. This has been achieved by using the freedom allowed under the fundholding initiative to be innovative, and by the hard work of a highly motivated practice team.

Despite being slightly underfunded on a per capita basis compared with our local health authority, we have performed an extra 400 minor operations in-house this year, at an approximate saving to the NHS of £145,000.

Mr Dobson wants to abolish this in the name of efficiency. Would his "action team" like to see us?

Yours faithfully,
IAN SYKES,
11 Foinavon Close, Rowley Regis,
Warley, West Midlands.

From Dr C. F. Rose

Sir, It was with a wry smile that I noticed Mr Frank Dobson's comment on the nine people who had been waiting more than 18 months that it was "unacceptable" that anyone had to wait that long for admission (report, November 19).

Our practice manager had just informed us that to see a named orthopaedic consultant at our local provider unit, the first routine outpatient appointment is in autumn 1999.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. ROSE,
Linden Medical Group,
Linden Avenue,
Kettering, Northamptonshire.
November 20.

From Mr Philip Dinnage

Sir, "Smoking costs NHS £1.7 billion, says Jowell" is your headline on page 4 today. In the text below we read that smokers pay £10.25 billion to the Exchequer.

Long may we smokers live for the benefit of others.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP DINNAGE,
10 Gorings Mead, Horsham, Sussex.
November 18.

Tobacco sponsorship

From the President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile

Sir, No one in Formula One has ever said 50,000 jobs would be lost if tobacco sponsorship were banned in the EU (letters, November 21; see also letters, November 7, 11, 14). A ban would damage the British motor sport industry, but the effect on jobs is difficult to predict.

The case for a Formula One exemption is concerned solely with the amount of tobacco sponsorship on television. If we accept that sporting events held outside the EU can be televised inside the EU and that Formula One can easily move six of the present nine EU events out (it can, and in 1999 if necessary), it follows that a ban would not reduce television publicity for tobacco in the EU. This is because with three non-tobacco events already (currently the British, French and German Grands Prix), the amount of television coverage of events with tobacco sponsorship would remain constant.

The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) has offered to introduce its own binding rules reducing Formula One tobacco sponsorship worldwide. Unlike an EU ban, this would actually reduce the amount of tobacco sponsorship shown on television. In return, we seek only the right for each EU government to allow a tobacco-sponsored sporting event of national importance on its territory. This is what happens in Australia, which has the world's most stringent anti-tobacco legislation.

We have never sought exemption for Formula One alone. To do so would be unfair to other branches of motor sport (eg, rallies), lose us the support of sport in general and attract little backing in the seven EU countries with no racing circuit suitable for Formula One.

The case for giving each EU government the power to exempt a sporting event of national or international significance is anyway strong. Supported by a real reduction in Formula One tobacco sponsorship worldwide by the FIA, it is overwhelming.

Yours faithfully,
MAX MOSLEY,
President,
Fédération Internationale de
l'Automobile,
8 Place de la Concorde,
75008 Paris.
21 November.

Student loans

From the Secretary of State for Education and Employment

Sir, Magnus Linklater ("Don't ever go back on Dearing", November 20) states that "students from middle-income families, at the bottom end of the non-exempt range, will now have to contemplate finding tuition fees 'up-front' [and] will be ineligible for loans". This is simply untrue.

All students will be eligible for loans, which are tied to the retail price index and thus have no real rate of interest. The level of the loan will depend on family circumstances, as now. Under the current scheme, middle and higher-income families are expected to make a contribution to maintenance. Their overall contribution will be no greater than at present.

Graduates will start to repay the loans only when they start earning over £10,000 a year — and then on an income-contingent basis. Those earning £17,000 a year would have to pay back £12 a week, which is less than the £18-£30 a week they would have to pay under the present loans scheme. This is a much fairer system.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BLUNKETT,
House of Commons.

Ringed for survival

From Dr Jeremy J. D. Greenwood, Director of the British Trust for Ornithology

Sir, The practice of birdringing, referred to in your leading article of November 15, provides a vital means of measuring changes in the average survival rates of wild birds.

Thanks to ringing, for instance, we know that the recent decline in song thrush numbers (a 60 per cent reduction between 1969 and 1994) has been accompanied by a decline neither in breeding success per nesting attempt nor in survival of adult birds. In contrast, the mean survival of birds during their first year of life has declined to an extent sufficient to explain the decrease in numbers. This allows conservation scientists to concentrate on that stage in the life history when trying to discover the problems facing this once-familiar bird.

The fieldwork on which such knowledge is based is carried out by thousands of volunteers. As a result of their dedication in ringing, nest-finding and counting, we have a better knowledge of the problems facing birds and other wildlife in Britain than in any other country.

Such knowledge is essential if we are to take soundly based decisions about the management of the countryside. The volunteers should be saluted.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY GREENWOOD,
Director,
British Trust for Ornithology,
The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk.
November 21.

Degree of choice

From Mrs Margaret Ball

Sir, How actors can complain about being asked to take any job in "their field", however detrimental to their careers (article, "The shame of being a luvvie on the dole", November 18), beggars belief. If a graduate with a Masters degree refuses *any* job "without good reason" then their dole/jobseeker's allowance is likely to be stopped. These days people have to take anything, however beneath them it seems. Why should actors be a special case?

Yours faithfully,
M. P. BALL,
Rother Walk, Mill Hill,
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire.
November 19.

Wigs and gowns

From His Honour Judge Peter Smith

Sir, There was disorder in the public gallery of my court last week when the fan club of a particularly aggressive defendant protested at the sentence that I passed.

When shopping for my sandwich an hour later in the town centre, it consoled me to think that, wigless (letters, November 13, 18), those same protesters would be unable to recognise me.

If my wig is taken from me, ought I to sport a false moustache instead?

Yours sincerely,
PETER SMITH,
c/o Barrow Crown Court,
Abbey Road,
Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

Ticket tax break for rail commuters

From Mr James Bourlet

Sir, Tax relief for firms that pay for rail season tickets for their staff (report, November 21) cannot be justified on economic grounds, however hard the railway companies may lobby for it.

Fundamentally it is in the general interest for people to live closer to, rather than further away from, their place of work. There are savings of time, transport costs, congestion and pollution, mothers have less need to be taxi drivers for their children, and time saved on distance commuting can be devoted to more worthwhile activities. For some, the stress of long-distance commuting leads to early retirement.

The public interest is best served by people returning to and thus rejuvenating central city areas, and they are beginning to do so in encouraging numbers — witness the current growth of new residential accommodation in London.

Why therefore should transport and tax policy discriminate against this in favour of dormitory suburbs? At present the taxpayer subsidises commuting; the season ticket holder from Northampton pays just 15p per mile for his travel, whilst the Central Londoner pays on short journeys over £1 per mile. To give tax relief on the 15p whilst denying it on the £1 would add insult to injury.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BOURLET,
Economic Research Council,
239 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2.
November 21.

From Mr Nigel Morgans

Sir, Let's see tax relief extended to the individual commuter who pays for an annual season ticket out of his/her own pocket.

Yours sincerely,
NIGEL MORGANS,
Highview, 5a King Edward Road,
Stanford-le-Hope, Essex.
nigel.morgans@ms.corpoflondon.gov.uk
November 21.

Forgotten campaign

From Sir Patrick Fairweather

Sir, As the "first building in mainland Europe" was being liberated from the Germans (report, "Battlelines drawn over new Pegasus Bridge museum", November 17) the allied armies were liberating Rome. They had been fighting in the Italian peninsula since the Salerno landings in September 1943.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK FAIRWEATHER,
18 Wetherby Gardens, SW5.

Pension costs

From Mr Alan Challoner

Sir, Your front page today reports the "takeover bonanza" of Mercury Asset Management, the pension fund manager. It goes on to tell us that the takeover will make some 300 staff "untold fortunes".

Inside the same edition, Jill Sherman reports on a new "stakeholder" pension, which could replace the state scheme. In this she writes (later editions): "The charges for a personal pension account for at least 25 per cent of the contribution." Is there a connection between these two?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN CHALLONER,
13 The Village,
Bodelwyddan, Denbighshire.
November 20.

Proceed with care

From Mr Guy Bradshaw

Sir, Mr Guy Greenhous (letter, November 18) writes of a recently enjoyed bottle of Frog's Leap wine which bears the instruction "Open Other End" at the bottom of its label.

In September my wife and I toured the Californian vineyard that produces the wine. We were told that, when the wine producer came up with the idea, as a joke, to include the instruction to which Mr Greenhous *refers and submitted the label design* to the appropriate US trade authorities for approval, he was surprised when it was turned down. They did not think his idea very funny.

He therefore requested a written assurance that the authorities would be responsible if any of his customers did mistakenly open the bottle at the wrong end and injure themselves. They were naturally not prepared to provide such an assurance, hence the (subsequently approved) label.

Yours faithfully,
GUY BRADSHAW,
188 Chiswick Village, W4.
guymelroque@compuserve.com
November 18.

From Dr J. M. Tiffany

Sir, I am glad that Mr Guy Greenhous enjoyed his bottle of Frog's Leap wine.

Perhaps he did not notice that, on the side of the cork where other producers put "Bottled in California", or some such, this wine merely says "Ribbit".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TIFFANY,
84 Old High Street,
Headington, Oxford.
November 19.

هكذا من الاهل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 22: The Duke of York today visited evacuees in the safe areas on Montserrat, the Leeward Islands.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 22: The Princess Royal, Patron, Scottish Rugby Union, accompanied by Captain Timothy Laurence RN, this afternoon attended the International Match between Scotland and Australia at Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 23: The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The King and Queen of Norway and bade farewell to Their Majesties on behalf of The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 23: The Duke of York this morning visited Montserratian evacuees in Antigua, the Leeward Islands.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
November 23: Princess Alexandra this afternoon attended a Service in Winchester Cathedral to commemorate the Golden Wedding of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan).

Birthdays today

Viscount Alanbrooke, 65; Mr P.M. Birse, chairman, Birse Group, 55; Mr David Blakey, Chief Constable, West Mercia, 54; the Marquess of Blandford, 42; Mr Ian Botham, cricketer, 42; Mr Lynn Chadwick, sculptor, 83; Mr Billy Connolly, comedian, 55; Miss Beryl Cooper, QC, 70; Mr Patric Dickinson, Richmond Herald of Arms, 47; Judge Elisabeth Fisher, 53; Mr P.J. Head, head of property services, Further Education Funding Council for England, 46; Mr David Kossoff, actor and author, 78; General Sir Richard Lawson, 70; Mr E.A.M. MacAlpine, former Headmaster, Mill Hill School, 57; Sir Claus Moser, FBA, former Warden, Wadham College, Oxford, 75; Mr Charles Osborne, author, 70; Miss Vivien Saunders, golfer, 51; Mr Edward Stourton, broadcaster, 40; Mr Mark Taylor, director, Museums Association, 39; the Right Rev F.S. Temple, former Bishop of Malmesbury, 81; Mr Paul Thorburn, rugby player, 35.

Sir John Kendrew, FRS

The President of St John's College, Oxford introduced the speakers at a commemoration for the life of Sir John Kendrew, FRS, biochemist and Nobel laureate, held on Saturday in the college chapel. Dr Max Perutz, OM, CH, FRS, paid tribute and Mr Ross McKibbin gave an address.

The college choir, conducted by Mr Gavin Milmer and accompanied by Mr Christopher Willey, of St Anne's College, organ, sang *Toward the Unknown Region* by Ralph Vaughan Williams and *Heaven-Haven* by Samuel Barber. Ms Kate Gould, cello, played *Suite in C major* by J S Bach.

Nature notes

The wigeon

Some young carrion crows are still hopping after their parents, hoping to be fed, but they usually get chased away. Mute swan cygnets, in their soft brown plumage, stay in the company of their parents, but they feed for themselves, with all the family upending in the water together. This year's brood of great crested grebes are still very distinctive with their silver-grey plumage and black head-stripes. The adults will lose their forked head-crests and chestnut ruffs for the winter months. Large numbers of wigeon are flying in from Scandinavia and settling on quiet lakes. The drakes have a chestnut head with a buttery-looking patch above the beak, and their sharp whistles can be heard a long way off. A few colourful leaves linger on most trees. Weeping willow trees are cascades of green and yellow. Bramble bushes are changing colour, with large, bright yellow leaves dotted among the dark green foliage that will survive the winter. Some tall mallow plants continue to put out purple flowers. The gleaming red, oval-shaped berries of black bryony hang in long strings over the hedges: they burn the lips if tasted, and are poisonous if they are swallowed. DJM

MIKE SEWELL

Pupils in the Woodard Orchestra rehearsing in Wolverhampton yesterday for The Woodard Schools 150th anniversary concert at the Albert Hall in London tomorrow. Almost 1,400 pupils from 37 of the Anglican schools across the country will be performing in the orchestra and concert band or singing in the two choirs

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Senior Fellow, will attend the Royal Academy of Engineering New Fellows' dinner at Drapers' Hall, at 7.20.

Princess Margaret will visit the Phoenix Theatre, Blyth, Northumberland, at 10.55; and the National Children's Home, Ashington, at 11.55.

The Duke of Gloucester will open the rebuilt Leonard Cheshire Home, Rustington, Littlehampton, West Sussex, at 4.00; and, as president, NABC — Clubs for Young People, will open a new building for the Crawley boys' club, Crawley New Town, at 6.15.

The Duchess of Gloucester, patron, BLISS (Baby Life Support System), will attend a reception to mark BLISS' 18th anniversary, at Claridge's, at 7.00.

University news

Oxford

Jesus College

Miss Mui-Jun Tan has been elected to the Bahran Dehqani-Tafti Scholarship.

Mr Cameron Dalgetty Mabon has been awarded the Bahran Dehqani-Tafti Travel Scholarship 1997.

Lincoln's Inn

The following have been elected Ordinary Benchers of Lincoln's Inn: Mr David Goldberg, QC, Mr Shaun Spencer, QC, Mr John Jarvis, QC, and Mr Geoffrey Tattersall, QC.

Archaeology

River deposits yield long-lost Chinese city

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

AN ANCIENT Chinese city more than 2,000 years old has been found under river deposits near the Yellow River. It is believed to have been the home of the deposed Shang Dynasty, who ruled China between around 1800 and 1100 BC.

The site, at Laonanguan, lies about 100 miles east of the former Shang capital of Ao, modern Zhengshou, and was located by coring through more than 30ft of alluvium dumped by successive floods. Until 1855, the Yellow River ran just to the north, before shifting to its present course.

Three of the four city walls, which were built of rammed earth between 770 and 446 BC, have been found, one of them two miles long. The coring profile has found a declivity in the sediments along the wall line, which Zhichuan Jing and his colleagues believe to be the site of one of the city walls.

The whole west wall, 3,000 yards long, and the west portions of the north and south walls are well preserved, they report in *World Archaeology*.

The base of the walls lies 11-12 yards below the modern surface, but the top of the surviving portion is only 2-3 yards down. The remains date from the "Spring and Autumn" period of the Zhou Dynasty, whose duke deposed the last Shang Emperor.

"Several ancient texts mention that the city Song was built by the descendants of the Shang royal house on their homeland, and the city has long been believed to be located somewhere in this Shangqiu area," Zhichuan Jing and his colleagues note.

The name of the site, Laonanguan, means "old southern town gate", suggesting some ancient memory of the former city, and they have tentatively identified it as the long-lost Song, the dower house of the deposed dynasty.

Source: ***World Archaeology* 29 No 1: 36-50**

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: Baruch Spinoza, philosopher, Amsterdam, 1632; Laurence Sterne, novelist, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, 1713; John Bacon, sculptor, London, 1740; Zachary Taylor, 12th American President 1849-50, Montebello, Gordonsville, Virginia, 1784; Grace Darling, heroine of the *Forfarshire* wreck, Bamburgh, Northumberland, 1815; Frances Burnett, novelist and dramatist, Manchester, 1849; Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, painter, Albi, France, 1864; Herbert Sutcliffe, England and Yorkshire cricketer, Pudsey, Yorkshire, 1894.

DEATHS: John Knox, Protestant reformer, Edinburgh, 1572; Robert Henry, historian, Edinburgh, 1790; William Lamb, 2nd Viscount Melbourne, Prime Minister 1834 and 1835-41, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 1848; Sir Henry Havelock, general, Lucknow, India, 1857; Sir Hiram Maxim, pioneer of the machinegun, London, 1916; Robert Erskine Childers, Irish nationalist and writer, executed, Dublin, 1922; Georges Clemenceau, Prime Minister of France 1917-20, Paris, 1929; Freddie Mercury, singer and songwriter, London, 1991.

Abel Tasman discovered Van Dieman's land, 1642, renamed Tasmania, 1853.

Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was published, 1859.

Lee Harvey Oswald, charged with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, was shot dead by Jack Ruby in the underground car park of Dallas police headquarters, 1963.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B.D.A. Cecil
and Miss J. Sahadi
The engagement is announced between Ben, younger son of the Hon Mrs Patterson, of Ecchinswell, Newbury, and Mr David Cecil, and Jenine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Fred Sahadi, of California.

Mr S. Husson
and Miss H. Morrogh-Bernard
The engagement is announced between Simon Husson, of Brighton, and Helen Morrogh-Bernard, of Cirencester, GL7 6HP.

Dr C.I. Skelton-Foord
and Miss D. Miehe
The engagement is announced between Christopher, only son of Mr and Mrs Benedict Skelton-Foord, of Montrose, Scotland, and Dorothea, younger daughter of the late Mr Ernst-August Miehe and of Mrs Ilse Miehe, of Goslar, Germany.

Mr J. Turnbull
and Miss C.G. Hoare
The engagement is announced between Julian, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Turnbull, of Faversham, Kent, and Caroline, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hoare, of Leatherhead, Surrey.

Mr D.J. Williams
and Miss A.C. Turnbull
The engagement is announced between Denis, son of the late Jeffery Williams, CBE, and of Mrs Williams, of Oxford, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Adrian Turnbull and stepdaughter of Mrs Margaret Turnbull, of Goathland, North Yorkshire.

Service dinner

Royal Tank Regiment
Major General R.W.M. McAfee, Colonel Commandant Royal Tank Regiment, presided at the Annual Officers' Dinner held on Saturday, November 22, at the Salle de la Manutention, Cambrai, France, to mark the eightieth anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai. The principal Guests of Honour were Sir Michael Jay, KCMG, HM Ambassador to Paris, Dr J. Reid, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Captain Norman Edwards, First World War Veteran, and Mr C. Berry-Green, Master Vintner.

Dinners

The Athenaeum, Liverpool
The Lord Chief Justice, accompanied by Lady Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord-Lieutenant of Merseyside and the Lord Mayor of Liverpool were the principal guests at a dinner given by the Proprietors of the Athenaeum held on Saturday at the Town Hall, Liverpool, to mark the bi-centenary of the institution. Sir Christopher Hewetson, president, was in the chair.

Savoy Gastronomes
Mr Jim Sarton, president of the Savoy Gastronomes, presided at the annual dinner held on Saturday at Hintlesham Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Marriages

Mr R.E. Greenwood
and the Hon Gillian Douglas-Pennant
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Stephen's, Sparsholt, Hampshire, of Mr Robin Greenwood, son of Mrs Pamela Greenwood, of South Cadbury, Somerset, and the late Mr Peter Greenwood, to the Hon Gillian Douglas-Pennant, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Penrhyn, of Littleton, Hampshire. The Rev David Williams officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Emily, Edward and Nicholas Troubridge and Sophie Laurie. Mr Robert Rous was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Sir Edwin Nixon
and Miss B.D. Rogers
The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Lawrence, Chobham, Surrey, between Sir Edwin Nixon, of Rogate, Hampshire, elder son of the late Mr and Mrs William A. Nixon, and Miss Bridget Rogers, elder daughter of Mrs Lenna Rogers and the late Mr Reginald Rogers, of Chobham. The Rev Andrew Body and the Rev Professor Owen Chadwick, OM, KBE, FBA, officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by Mr John Entwistle. Professor Sir Christopher Zeeman, FRS, was best man.

Mr J.W.G Newall
and Miss S.B. Allison
The marriage took place on Saturday at St Mary The Boltons, West Kensington, between Lieutenant Jamie Newall, younger son of Sir Paul and Lady Newall, of Yoxford, Suffolk, and Miss Sacha Allison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Allison, of Harcourt Hill, Oxford. The Rev Gerald Beauchamp officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Topsy Secombe. The Hon Henry Stewart was best man.

A guard of honour was found by 7 Company Coldstream Guards.

A reception was held at the home of the bride's grandparents.

Mr M.C.H. Allies
and Miss T.F.L. Page
The marriage took place on October 30, in Hong Kong, of Martin, elder son of Mr Frank Allies, of Karlsruhe, and Mrs Uta Allies, of Gemerscheim, Germany, and Tayma, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Page, of Barton Seagrave, Northamptonshire.

The bride was attended by Romy Allies and Miss Elise Page. Mr Steffan Allies was best man.

A reception was held at The Grand Hyatt and a dinner and dance at the Peak Café.

Dr M. Rigg
and Mrs A. Martin
The marriage took place quietly on November 22, at St Mary's Church, Vancouver, BC, between Dr Michael Rigg and Mrs Alison Martin.

There is nothing but talk; they swear false oaths and draw up treaties, and litigation spreads like a poisonous weed along the furrows of the field. Hosea 10 : 4

BIRTHS

BARRIE - On November 20th 1997, to Emma (née Colvile) and Angus, a daughter, Julia Katharine, a sister for Matthew.

DUDGEON - On 14th November, 1997 to Bridget (née Taylor) and Johnny, a boy, Patrick George Mackellar, a brother for Felix.

POLLITT - On November 11th at Pembury Hospital to Caroline (née Farquhar) and Jonathan, a beautiful daughter, Eleanor Margaret.

SUNLEY - On Wednesday November 19th, 1997 to Amanda (née Jackson) and James, a son, Casper Mark Bernard.

THISTLETHWAYTE - On 20th November 1997 in Guernsey, to Melissa and Mark, a daughter, Rosie Imogen Maitland.

TYLER - On 18th November, 1997 to Stephanie (née Humphrys) and Mark, the precious gift of a daughter Saskia Jade, a sister for Becky.

DEATHS

CLIFTON-MOGG - Desmond Alan, DSC, peacefully at home on November 20th 1997, aged 82. Beloved husband of Eileen, father of Caroline and Candy, and grandfather to Eliza, Georgia, Bertie and Freddie. Cremation on Wednesday 26th November at 10:30am at Mortlake Crematorium. If wished, instead of flowers, donations may be made to The Trinity Hospice, 30, Clapham Common North Side, London, SW4. Funeral Directors, W S Bond, 127, Fulham Palace Road, London, W6 8JA (0181 748 3185).

de COURCY - On 20th November, 1997, peacefully at home following a year long fight against cancer, Mary-Claire. Beloved wife of John. Family flowers only, but donations for Hospice in the Weald c/o Paul Bysouth Funeral Services, Crowborough. Tel: (01892) 655000.

HEARN - Claude Geoffrey, suddenly at home on 20th November. Much loved and respected husband, father and grandfather. Funeral at St Peter and St Paul Church, Wadhurst 11.30am Friday 28th November. Flowers or donations to Hospice in the Weald c/o P Bysouth, Crowborough. Tel: 01892 655000.

JENKINS - David H.R. Jenkins aged 54 died on 20th November 1997 following a plane accident in his own Tiger Moth in August of this year. He survived for three months due to the courage and determination, together with the excellent care of the Cardiff Royal Infirmary and University Hospital of Wales Intensive Care Units. The funeral is to be held at Llandaff Cathedral at 2.00pm on Friday 28th November 1997. No flowers by request but donations please to either UHW ITU (attention of Gaynor Andrews, Ref. No: 6441) or CRI ITU (attention of Helen Bowen, Ref. No: 6324). Cheques to CRI and UHW should both be made payable to "UHW Healthcare NHS Trust).

DEATHS

KEELING - On November 21st Colonel John George Michael Keeling (Retired RAOC) aged 89. Much loved husband of Edna, father of David and grandfather of Francis, Xavier, Antonia and Damian peacefully at home in Elmswell, Suffolk. Enquiries to 01225 425096.

MARSHALL - On November 18th peacefully May wife of the late George Marshall C.M.G., M.B.E., B.E.M. Funeral Service at 2pm Tuesday December 9th at Worthing Crematorium. Family flowers only please, but donations in her memory for Parkinson's Disease Society may be sent to H. D. Tribe Limited 130 Broadwater Road, Worthing. Tel: 01903 234516.

STOREY-PUGH - Alison, died peacefully on Friday 21st November 1997 at The Ashdown Hospital, Haywards Heath after a short illness. Much loved mother of Sheila, Piers and Sarah. Funeral service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth on Wednesday 26th November at 2.45pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for The Donkey Sanctuary may be sent to Jill Matthews, 1, Old Talbot House, High Street, Cuckfield, RH17 5JX. Tel: 01444 441515.

VAUGHAN - W. H. (Tim) aged 56, of 53, Mendora Road, Fulham SW6 and Rose Cottage, Upper Somerton, Suffolk. Very peacefully after a long illness. Beloved companion of Raymund Kelly. Service at St John's Wood Church, Lords Roundabout, St John's Wood, London, NW8 at 1pm on Thursday 27th November. No flowers please, donations if desired to St John's and Elizabeth Hospice, Grove End Road, NW8. Enquiries to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, London, SW10 9EL. Tel: 0171 352 0008.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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LEGAL NOTICES

In the Matter of Chancery Properties Ltd and in the Matter of the Insolvency Act and Rules 1986 in accordance with Rule 4.106, I, Melvyn Julian Carter of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London N19 5UU, give notice that on 17 November 1997 I was appointed Liquidator by resolutions of members. Dated: 17 November 1997 Signed: MJ Carter, Liquidator.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No. 008433 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER of BEACON INVESTMENT TRUST plc
and
IN THE MATTER of THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was on the 31st day of October 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company from £11,891,618 to £7,891,618.
And Notice is further given that the said petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 3 December 1997.
Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 24th day of November 1997.
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One, St Paul's Churchyard
London EC4M 8SH.
Tel: 0171 329 4422
Ref: 815/292
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

COMPANY NUMBER 2829514
HANDYPERN LIMITED
(IN MEMBERS' VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
On 12 November 1997 the above named company was placed in Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Dipankar Mohan Ghosh of Price Waterhouse was appointed Liquidator by the shareholders. The Liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that the creditors of the company must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the Liquidator at No 1 London Bridge, London SE1 9QL by 24 December 1997 which is the last day for proving claims. The Liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
All known creditors have been or will be paid in full.
Dated 20 November 1997
DM Ghosh, Liquidator.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 005609 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF [illegible] TRANSPORT INVESTMENTS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 7th day November 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above-named Company from £20,000,000 to £250,000 and the cancellation of its Share Premium Account.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 3rd day of December 1997.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the of the said reduction of capital and cancellation of Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 24th day of November 1997.
SJ Berwin
222 Grays Inn Road
London WC1X 8HB
Telephone 0171 533 2222
Fax: 0171 533 2000
Solicitors for the petitioner.

APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL HOURS CERTIFICATE
TO: All Whom It May Concern
We, Calogero Millitello, Giovanni Millitello, Calogero Castiglione and Pasquale Mazolla, being the holders of the Justices licence for the below mentioned premises HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE that it is our intention to apply to the Licensing Division of North Westminster to be held at Marylebone Magistrates Court, 1st Floor Marylebone Road, London NW1 5QJ, on Tuesday the 9th day of December 1997 at 10.30 am for the grant to us of a Special Hours Certificate under Section 77 of the Licensing Act 1964 for the said premises situate at 29-31 Craven Road, Paddington, London W2 and known as Concordia Restaurante Italiano.
AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that if such Certificate is granted Section 76 of the said Act will apply to the said premises from the 9th day of December 1997.
Any person intending to oppose the application shall give notice in writing of his intention to the applicants and to the Clerk of the Licensing Justices specifying in general terms the grounds of his opposition not later than seven days before the commencement of the above sessions.
Given under our hand 14th day of November 1997
SWEPSTONE WALSH,
9 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BP.
Solicitors for and on behalf of the Applicants duly authorised.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
NO 008526 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF SODASTREAM LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 5th November 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the share capital of the above named Company from £5,010,000 to £10,000.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday 3rd December 1997.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of share capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A COPY of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated this 24th day of November 1997.
Berwin Leighton
Adelaide House
London Bridge
London EC4R 9HA
Tel: 0171 623 3144
Ref: STRO/S1476/1
Solicitors for the above named Company.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
No 005670 of 1997
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF STERLING PUBLICATIONS LIMITED
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 6th November 1997 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Capital of the Company from £10,000,303 to £1,581,985.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on 3 December 1997.
ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of Share Capital should appear at the same time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 20th day of November 1997
TAYLOR JOYNSON GARRETT
Carmelite,
50 Victoria Embankment,
Blackfriars, London, EC4Y 0DX.
Ref: DEC
Tel: 0171 353 1234.
Solicitors for the above named Company.

MICHAEL HUTCHENCE

Michael Hutchence, rock star, was found dead in his hotel room in Sydney on November 22, aged 37. He was born on January 22, 1960.

Michael Hutchence was the closest Australia has come to having an equivalent of rock rebels such as Mick Jagger and Jim Morrison. A hard-living hell-raiser who often boasted of his copious intake of drugs, he did his swaggering best to live up to the danger implicit in the name of his band, INXS ("in excess"). He marked his birthday this year by claiming that he was "never going to live my life in a way that's deemed appropriate", but actually lived, and apparently died, in the antic manner now virtually *de rigueur* for rock's hard men.

In recent years he became a more regular fixture in the gossip columns than in the music press, which had come to regard the uncomplicated funk-rock played by INXS as unfashionable. Yet for several years Hutchence led one of the best-selling stadium rock bands in the world, selling more than 20 million albums. He relished the part, considering himself "bloody good at being a rock star", and was once described as "surfing on the irony of it all".

Hutchence was born in Sydney to a suburban middle-class family, but led a peripatetic childhood, living in Hong Kong, where he picked up his English accent, and Los Angeles. He always believed that his upbringing influenced the restlessness and bohemianism that came to characterise his adult life.

Back in Sydney in 1977, he became lead singer with a band known as the Farriss Brothers, which became INXS the following year when it moved to Perth. The band's original six-strong line-up was to remain unchanged throughout. They developed a driving sound that combined rock, dance and soul, and spent the next four years travelling across Australia, playing up to 300 dates a year, mostly in small and seedy venues. Some of these had separate bars for men and women, with gutters running between so that the lager and vomit could be hosed away.

The band's first album appeared in 1980, and there were several minor Australian hits before they were signed to a major label in 1982. The deal took them to America and Britain, where they traded successfully on the sultry good looks and bad boy charisma of Hutchence, who was also rapidly developing as a songwriter.

Touring incessantly, they also became one of the first bands to benefit from the emergence of MTV, with a series of striking videos. In 1986 Hutchence made his film debut in *Dogs in Space*, playing a heroin-addicted punk. Shortly afterwards, the single *What You Need* reached the top five in America and, aided by a satellite appearance in Bob Geldof's Live Aid and sell-out shows supporting Queen, *Listen Like Thieves* became the band's first million-selling album. Some of the proceeds were invested in the film *Crocodile Dundee*, initially as a tax loss.

Kick, INXS's best album, occupied the British charts for more than two years at the end of the 1980s, and was followed by the successful *X* and the hit singles *Need You Tonight*, a number one in America, and *Suicide Blonde*. By 1990 Hutchence was at his peak, an all-round celebrity as well as a senior member of the rock aristocracy, starring as Shelley in Roger Corman's *Frankenstein Unbound* and winning a Brit award as best international artist.

INXS were to top the British album charts once more, in 1993 with *Welcome to Wherever You Are*, but by then the dual influences of Britpop and house were about to change musical fashions. Sales began to decline outside Australia and last year Liam Gallagher of Oasis denounced Hutchence as a "has-been". The last album, *Elegantly Wasted*, received a critical mauling for repeating the same old rock clichés, although Hutchence enjoyed some success singing on the soundtracks of the hit films *Batman Forever* and *Face/Off*. He was preparing for a sell-out tour, called "Lose Your Head", to celebrate INXS's 20th anniversary and Michael Douglas had reportedly invited him to Hollywood to discuss future film roles.

Despite his commercial decline, Hutchence had been more in the media glare than ever in recent years because of his turbulent lifestyle, and as consort to a string of famous women. There were affairs with Kylie Minogue and the model Helena Christensen before he hit the tabloid headlines in 1995 over his liaison with Paula Yates, who had then been married to Bob Geldof for nine years. The two had first met much earlier, when Yates interviewed him on television and described him as "the sexiest man alive".

Caught in an increasingly tangled web, of soap-opera complexity, Geldof and Yates at one point attempted a reconciliation while Hutchence went back to Christensen and posed for romantic shots in *Hello!* magazine. Shortly afterwards Hutchence punched a paparazzo who had tracked him and Yates to a hotel. He was duly fined.

Last year Yates gave birth to Hutchence's daughter, named Heavenly Hiraani Tiger Lily. Then, after changing their partners, Geldof, Yates and Hutchence agreed to change houses. In a bizarre house-swap, the new couple moved into Geldof's Chelsea home while Yates's husband moved into Hutchence's one-bedroom house. Shortly afterwards, the police raided the couple's home for drugs.

Hutchence recently announced that he and Yates would marry in Tahiti in January, and he was reported to be house-hunting for them in Sydney. In an interview in October he described himself as "the luckiest man alive", and all who knew him were surprised by his death. After Kurt Cobain's suicide, Hutchence had remarked: "Pop eats its young, that's for sure."

He is survived by Paula Yates and their daughter.

MONTY FRESCO

Fresco's lucky shot of Princess Anne was voted Best Royal Picture of 1976

Monty Fresco, MBE, press photographer, died on November 22 aged 78. He was born on October 17, 1919.

IN A career of more than 60 years on Fleet Street, Monty Fresco won more awards than any other press photographer, including Best Photographer in the World. During his travels he often told astonished officials that the reason he had just walked past a "no admittance" sign was that he had left school at 14 and couldn't read. Sir David English, the Editor in Chief of the *Daily Mail*, said that Fresco's "amusing personality meant that he could charm or persuade his subjects into doing exactly what he wanted".

Perhaps Fresco's most famous picture is of Princess Anne, peeking out from a host of hats at the Montreal Olympics in 1976. But his favourite was of the Pope at home in Poland, which had been obtained with characteristic cheek. He had run past the guards and sat among the red-robed cardinals just 15ft from the Pope. The picture is of the Pope quizzically looking at him as he snapped away.

Monty Moses Fresco was born in Spitalfields in London's East End, the youngest of 14 children. His father was a carpenter and odd-job man. His mother pawned her wedding ring to buy him his first camera, and she was rewarded when his first picture was published in the *London Star* when he was only 15.

His career had begun by accident, when he walked into a picture agency in Fleet Street by mistake, having taken the wrong door when trying to find a printers' where he had been promised a job.

He married his childhood sweetheart, Simmie, in 1941, and after working for the picture agency, Topical Press, and time in the Army on National Service, he joined the *Daily Sketch* in 1959. During his career he travelled the world, seeing foxholes in Vietnam and the Sinai Desert, watching Muhammad Ali's big fights, Geoff Hurst's winning hat-trick in the World Cup and a 16-day husky-race across the wastes of Alaska. He also photographed personalities from Churchill to Idi Amin. In 1970 he moved to the *Daily Mail*, where he worked until 1989.

In 1982 he published *Pictures Are My Life*, a selection of his best photographs from the jubilee of George V onwards. Four years later Fresco was surprised to find himself ambushed by the media, to be fêted by Frank Bruno and Miss World as the subject of television's *This Is Your Life*. Last year he was appointed MBE for his services to journalism.

Ian Wooldridge, who worked with him for many years, said: "What distinguishes the ace is the talent to pick the locks of contemporary history and slip through the doors which conceal great pictures. At this thrilling and difficult game, Monty Fresco was without peer."

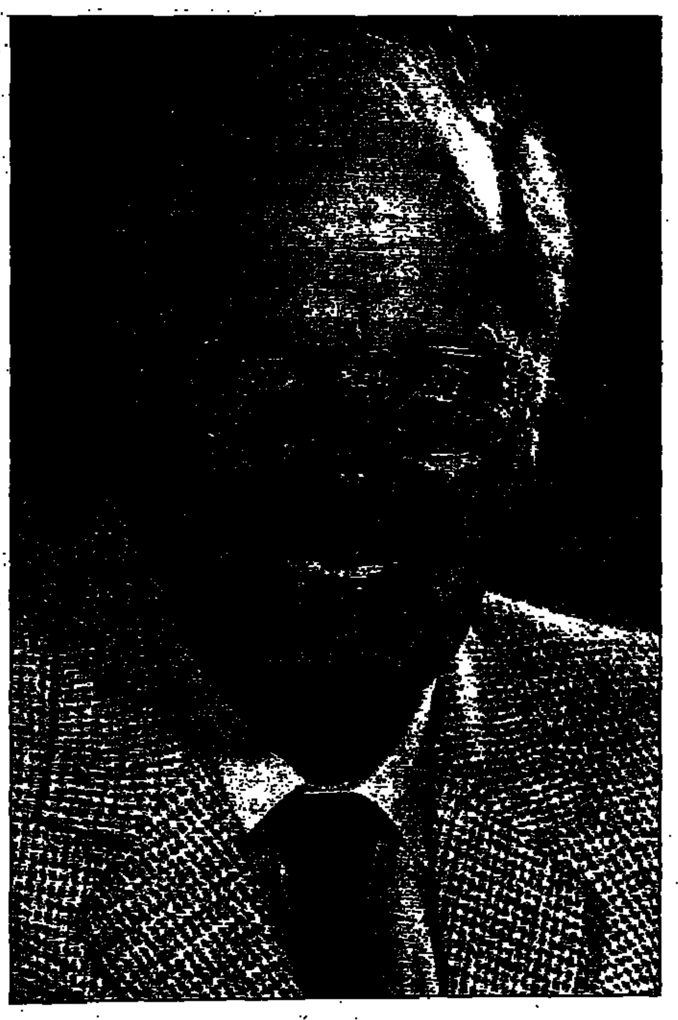
He is survived by his wife, and their son and daughter.

PROFESSOR JOHN LAWSON

Professor John Lawson, obstetrician, died on October 25 aged 75. He was born on June 20, 1922.

JOHN LAWSON was a giant, not only in stature — he was 6ft 7in — but also, for 40 years, in the field of medicine in the developing world. In 1953 he went to Nigeria as Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the new medical school at University College, Ibadan, which was then affiliated to the University of London. Setting up in the government hospital at Adeoyo, he moved his department to the new University College Hospital, where it became internationally recognised for its work on the problems of women and childbirth in a region where associated mortality and morbidity were on a scale scarcely comprehended in the developed world.

The department made major contributions to the understanding and treatment of anaemia due to malnutrition, malaria and blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease), which at the time actually accounted for more deaths than anything else. Lawson's special contributions were to mechanical obstruction in unsupervised childbirth, and in its devastating sequel of genital trauma resulting in urinary and faecal fistula. The sufferers who survived (mostly adolescents) were completely incontinent and rejected by spouses and families. Following in the steps of Chassar Moir and Mahfouz, Lawson and his colleague Paul Hendrickse established a fistula unit of international renown, attracting patients from far afield and aspiring surgeons to be trained.



Recognising that this was a problem throughout the developing world, Lawson wrote and lectured widely, producing an educational film, which won a BMA silver award in 1963. With his friend Dave Stewart of the University of the West Indies, he produced an important work, *Obstetrics and Gynaecology in the Tropics*. The Ibadan Unit has been an inspiration for a number of special units and hospitals devoted to fistula surgery across the continent and elsewhere.

John Lawson was born in 1922 in Ashby de la Zouch, where his father was a mining engineer. As a prefect at Rugby, his awakening social conscience dictated that he should not participate in the traditional activity of punishing younger boys. His subsequent education was at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and the London Hospital, where the practice was largely with the underprivileged of the East End.

It was, however, during National Service, on secondment to the West African Medical Corps in Sierra Leone, that Lawson's interest was aroused in the problems of the deprived and underprivileged, which were compounded in the case of women by their status in society. After a traditional specialist training which included Queen Charlotte's and the Hospital for Women, the young man with pronounced left-wing views was selected for the chair at Ibadan, an appointment which caused some concern in government circles, owing to the anxieties about communist influence over the emergent African nations.

Lawson's contribution to Ibadan was not confined to his department. He played a significant role in holding the university together during the difficult years of civil unrest, culminating in the civil war, and for a spell he served as acting vice-chancellor. Characteristically he turned down the offer of an honour.

In 1969 he decided to stand down in order to allow others to head the department on a rotating basis. He was appointed to a full-time NHS post at Newcastle General Hospital and the Princess Mary Hospital — the first joint appointment between these two. He set himself the task of organising the training of junior doctors on a regional basis, and of improving the lot of those who came from abroad. He was director of postgraduate studies at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists from 1981 to 1987, when he was elected vice-president and overseas officer.

During these years Lawson served for a time on the World Health Organisation's standing expert advisory committee on maternal and child health, and he continued to undertake overseas assignments for WHO, the British Council and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. He played a crucial part in persuading the Royal College to support an ambitious Anglo-American training programme to tackle the appalling maternal death-rate in Ghana.

Lawson inspired great loyalty, respect and friendship among his trainees, but relations with his contemporaries were not always as easy, for tact was not his strong point. He accepted with dignity that his term as vice-president was not to run a full three years, but it was clearly a wounding blow.

His was a complex character, sometimes the left-wing maverick, at other times very Establishment. His recreations of shooting and fishing were enjoyed largely in non-medical company. Sadly these were curtailed in his later years by the illness which severely restricted his mobility. He is survived by his wife, without whose devoted support John Lawson would never have achieved what he did for the underprivileged women of the world. He also leaves two sons.

LUTHER SIMJIAN

Luther Simjian, inventor, died on October 23 aged 92. He was born on January 28, 1905.

IN AN inventing career spanning seven decades, Luther Simjian took out 200 patents, including the self-focusing camera, the TelePrompTer and early versions of the automatic teller machine. Some of his ideas are now in everyday use; others have yet to find anyone who wants them.

Acceptance does not always come easily. There was considerable scepticism at first, for instance, about whether customers would be prepared to make financial transactions with a hole-in-the-wall machine. Simjian registered 20 patents, and persuaded what is now Citicorp to give it a trial. After six months, the bank reported that there was little demand. "It seems the only people using the machines were a small number of prostitutes and gamblers who didn't want to deal with tellers face to face," wrote Simjian. Yet the automatic teller idea went on to make high street branches almost redundant.

Luther George Simjian was born in Turkey of Armenian parents. When he was seven, his uncle brought a magic lantern from France, and the boy decided to make one for himself with a kerosene lamp and smoked glass slides. He studied how light bent through the bottom of bottles and made his own lenses.

He moved to America at 15, finishing his education in New Haven, Connecticut. He originally intended to study medicine, but changed his mind after the medical school at Yale gave him a job in its photographic laboratory. As his uncle might have predicted, he proved to be adept with photographic technology.

In 1928 he was named director of the photography department at the medical school, and he soon developed way of projecting microscopic images and photographing specimens under water. This was followed in 1934 by a colour X-ray machine. He also invented a self-posing portrait camera, allowing the subject to look into a mirror and see exactly the picture that was about to be taken.

A variant of this was the "boudoir chair", with an adjustable mirror on the back (US patent 4,557,520), which enabled a woman to see all around her coiffure. Sitting on it, one could see a *reflection* of *one*self: which gave Simjian the name for his company, Reflectone, which he began in his garage.

At the start of the Second World War, Simjian realised that America would be drawn in, and that aerial warfare would be critical. Accordingly, he invented the "optical range estimation trainer", the first flight simulator of its kind. The simulator used a miniature plane, synchronised moving mirrors and controlled lighting to train aviators to identify enemy aircraft and determine their distance and speed. Reflectone sold more than 2,000 simulators, and Simjian also invented a flight speed indicator for aeroplanes.

Reflectone merged with the Universal Match Company in 1961, before regaining its independence only to be sold in 1996 to British Aerospace.

Simjian was always more interested in the science than in the business, but he formed two other companies, General Research and Command Automation, to help to capitalise on his other inventions, which included a remote-controlled postage meter, a meat tenderiser and an ultrasound device for use in hospitals. As a keen golfer, he also patented an indoor golf practice range during the 1960s, using an analog computer to project the "flight" of the ball.

"One thing I discovered about myself in the early days of my life is that I can't stick with just one idea for too long," Simjian wrote in his privately published *Portions of Autobiography*.

In March this year, Simjian received his last patent, for a process to improve the resonance of wood used for musical instruments. He is survived by his wife, Gladys, and a daughter.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Glenn Martin, Senior Mental Health Chaplain, Southern Derbyshire Mental Health Trust (Derby): to be Chaplain, Community Health, Sheffield NHS Trust (same diocese).

The Rev John Nockels, Rector, Tadley St Peter (Winchester): to be Priest-in-Charge, Great Massingham, Little Massingham, Harpley, Weasenham St Peter w All Saints', Wellingham and Rougham (Norwich).

The Rev Emma Percy, Chaplain, Anglia Polytechnic University (Cambridge Campus) (Ely): to be Priest-in-Charge, Millhouses Holy Trinity (Sheffield).

The Rev Dr Martyn Percy, Director, Lincoln Institute for the Study of Religion and Society (Sheffield): to be an Honorary Canon of Sheffield Cathedral.

The Rev Malcolm Rogers, Curate, Holloway Road St Mary Magdalene (London): to be Vicar, same benefice.

The Rev Alastair Ross, Vicar, Halifax, and Rural Dean of Halifax (Wakefield): to be an Honorary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral.

The Rev Bob Rogers, Vicar, New Malton (York): to be Rural Dean of Bulmer and Malton (same diocese).

The Rev Richard Seed, Vicar, Boston Spa, and Priest-in-Charge, Clifford (York): to be Rural Dean of New Ainsty (same diocese).

The Rev David Sherwin, Vicar, Wheatley Park, and Assistant Adviser in Evangelism (Sheffield): to be Diocesan Adviser in Evangelism, remaining as Vicar, Wheatley Park (same diocese).

The Rev Gordon Small, Team Vicar, Bucknall (Lichfield): to be Assistant Curate, Deal St Leonard w St Richard and Sholden St Nicholas with special responsibility for St Richard's Mill Hill (Canterbury).

The Rev Susan Spencer, Curate, Cotgrave (Southwell): to be half-time Priest-in-Charge, Rolleston, Fiskerton, Morton and Upton, and Assistant Warden of Readers (same diocese).

The Rev Robert Sturman, Priest-in-Charge, Abenhall w Mitcheldean (Gloucester): to be Rector, same benefice.

The Rev Matthew Thompson, Curate, Hulme (Manchester): to be Curate, Langley and Parkfield Team (same diocese).

The Rev Jonathan Tinker, Saddleworth St Chad (Manchester): to be also Priest-in-Charge, Greenfield St Mary (same diocese).

The Rev Nigel Williamson, Priest-in-Charge, Nether Hoyland St Andrew (Sheffield): to be Vicar, Swinton (same diocese).

Retirements & resignations

Canon Geoff Bostock, Vicar, Bilham (Sheffield) to retire November 30.

Canon John Browning, Chaplain, Community Health Sheffield NHS Trust (Sheffield) retired October 31.

Canon Christopher Chapman, Priest-in-Charge, Loddon, Sisland w Hales and Heckingham (LEP), and Chedgrave, Hardley and Langley, and Rural Dean of Loddon (Norwich) to retire as Rural Dean, January 1, 1998.

The Rev Gerald Downing, Vicar, Great Lever St Simon and St Jude (Manchester) retired September 22.

Canon Robin Fletcher, Vicar, Clifton (York) to retire December 31.

The Rev Avril Gaunt, formerly Assistant Curate, Farnham St Thomas-on-the-Bourne (Guildford) resigned August 31.

Canon Stanley Holbrooke-Jones, Rector, Poole St James w St Paul (Salisbury) retired October 31.

The Rev Clifford Roseweir, Vicar, West Croydon Christ Church, and Examining Chaplain to the Bishop of Southwark, to resign November 23.

Canon David Sansum, Vicar, Ashbourne St John the Baptist, and Ashbourne w Mappleton (Derby) to retire January 31, 1998, to be Canon Emeritus of Derby Cathedral.

Other appointments

Captain David Booker, CA, Diocesan Evangelist (Chelmsford): to be Children's Worker, Fulwood Christ Church (Sheffield).

ON THIS DAY

November 24, 1913

After France's defeat in the 1870 Franco-Prussian War, the Emperor Napoleon III, his wife, Empress Eugénie, and their son the Prince Imperial, settled in Chislehurst, Kent. The prince became an observer of military operations in Zululand. He was killed in an ambush in June 1879

PRINCE IMPERIAL'S DEATH.
LOSS OF HIS TRAINED HORSE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir, — As there has been some discussion lately about the tragedy of the Prince Imperial's death, the following may be of some interest.

I was a cadet with him, and, as I sat next to him at dinner for over a year, I got to know him very well. On Saturdays he always rode home to Chislehurst, and, I believe, Count Clery, and usually one or two more, with a groom leading the Prince's horse, used to ride over about 3 p.m. to fetch him and escort him home. One Saturday I was batting at the XI. net, then pitched on the turf near the front entrance gate, when the cavalcade arrived. I stopped batting and was admiring the Prince's horse when he passed me to go and mount. I remarked to him what a charming horse he had, and he stopped at once, seemed pleased, and said, "He is my charger and the horse I rode at Saarbruck. Now I will show you something," and he called to the groom to bring the horse into the grounds to us. The man did so, and when he got to us the Prince told him to let him loose, and then he said to me, "Now you come with me." He strolled away, and I followed him some 30 yards. The horse, of course, had started trying to nibble some grass. The Prince stopped and, as far as I remember, gave some whistle or call. The horse looked up at once, cocked his ears, trotted up to us, and stood like a rock, and with one bound the Prince vaulted into the saddle, picked up his reins, and said to me: "They teach us to do this in France, but you do not so teach us in your riding school, and you are wrong." He laughed, said good-bye, and rode out of the gate to join his escort.

It was a beautiful little chestnut Arab horse, not more than 14.2 and obviously perfectly trained to come at once to a call and stand like a rock, to be vaulted on to. I believe the horse went to South Africa with him, and I heard that it died of the tsetse fly only a few days before the tragedy.

The last time I ever saw the Prince was at the top of St. James's-street. He saw me across the street, rushed across — and incidentally was very nearly run over by a hansom-cab — came up to me quite breathless, and said, "I saw you and had to come to tell you the good news! I have just come from the War Office, and I have got my orders, and I sail for South Africa at once." I wished him all good luck and never dreamt I should never see him again. He was in the greatest spirits and overjoyed at the thought of going out. Though scarcely the figure of a horseman, he was a fine and bold rider, and a very clever and plucky fellow, *bon camarade* with us all and greatly liked.

Though he lived in a house on the Common, he had rooms, too, in the Academy, and after dinner he often invited me to come to them, saying, "I will give you coffee and a cigar, if you will come, and we will have a talk."

Certainly he loved asking questions, and used to ponder over things, but was very reticent in expressing his opinions; but he loved England, and would, I am sure, have been a good friend to us had he only lived.

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR CHAMBERS, late R.H.A.
Hatfield Court, Leominster, Nov. 18.

THE TIMES TODAY

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

NEWS

Clinton pledges to help Asian allies

■ President Clinton yesterday guaranteed America's commitment to the troubled economies of Asia as the possible collapse of Yamaichi, *one of the big four Tokyo brokers, threatened the* biggest financial failure in Japan since the Second World War.

The board of Yamaichi was meeting last night to decide whether to cease trading. The Bank of Japan also met to thrash out a financial package to support investors who have deposited Y24 trillion (£110 billion) with Yamaichi ....Page 1

Atlantic rowers slash record

■ The transatlantic rowers Phil Stubbs and Rob Hamill were celebrating victory in Barbados after making their crossing in just 41 days, 32 days fewer than the previous record. The New Zealand pair did not know that they had won the 3,000-mile race until sighting Port St Charles ....Page 1

Brown stands firm

Gordon Brown will tomorrow try to quell demands for a softer approach to benefits reform with a warning that there can be no let-up over spending or pay .. Page 1

Crime stamped out

A crackdown on cross-Channel crime by police and ferry companies has led to offenders' passports being stamped to ban future travel. Bootlegging gangs are the target.............................Page 1

Hague moves office

William Hague is planning to shift most of his private office out of the Commons to Tory headquarters in a move to improve party morale and strengthen his authority ....Page 2

Hutchence denial

The lawyer representing Paula Yates furiously denied reports that her lover, the rock star Michael Hutchence, had died when a sex game went wrong.......Page 3

Lost inheritance

The appointment of John Major as legal and financial protector to Princes William and Harry is unlikely to stop a large bulk of their inheritance passing to the Treasury ....Page 5

Plea for prisoners

The man charged with keeping Myra Hindley and Rosemary West captive has insisted that his inmates must keep "some hope of escape" ....Page 6

Stamp of approval

The British Library's new building, *once said to be* "as glamorous as a public lavatory" has won favour from users ....Page 9

Ulster hot seat

There is one question Ulstermen all ask *George Mitchell*, chairman of the Stormont peace talks: why is he doing it?..........Page 10

Sitting on a fortune

A royal throne in the Cabinet *Office is among* an array of treasures that will be listed today in the Government's new version of the Domesday Book ....Page 11

Terrorist 'haven'

President Mubarak of Egypt condemned Britain for giving shelter to Islamic extremists, thus encouraging attacks such as the Luxor massacre...............Page 12

Family killers

The daughter of a Belgian clergyman has confessed to helping him to kill four relatives, including her two brothers, and to have murdered her mother.....Page 14

Asian turmoil

Governments in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are reeling as political and financial turmoil grip southern Asia..........Page 15

Secrets of Xanadu

Chinese aerial archaeologists studying Xanadu, the summer palace of Kubla Khan, have found a main avenue .....Page 16

Inventor says trike idea is patently his

■ A British inventor was astonished when he saw an idea for a powered tricycle that he conceived ten years ago claimed as a world first by Mercedes. Cliff Ingram drew up international patents but could not win backing for his covered tricycle designed to lean through corners. The Mercedes F300 Life-Jet, a two-seater trike, incorporates similar features .... Page 8

PASCAL ROSSIGNOL / REUTERS

Military enthusiasts meet Captain H.N. Edwards, 103, a veteran of the Royal Tank Corps, in Louverval, northern France, yesterday during celebrations to mark the eightieth anniversary of the first tank battle, which took place there

Betting on Ritz: *David* and Frederick Barclay, the twins whose interests range from hotels to newspapers, will today apply for a casino licence in the name of Aidan, David's son, for the Ritz....Page 52

Redland: Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland, will leave the *building materials group* whatever the outcome of a £1.6 billion hostile bid from Lafarge, its French rival. *He is* expected to receive compensation of about £700,000.......Page 52

Clean fight: A battle of the superloos is set to break out in France next week as the country's richest advertising baron waits to hear whether he must accept competition from a British rival in the market for advertising space on the sides of public lavatories...Page 52

Melvyn Bragg: "The Great Man theory of history is dead. So dodo is its state that even to muse on it is to be mocked." .... Page 20

Comic turn: The film adaptation of George Orwell's novel, *Keep the Aspidistra Flying*, turns social commentary into romantic comedy, and is yet another example of political correctness gone mad Page 20

New life: Scottish Ballet unveiled its Christmas show at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow, Ashton's *La Fille mal gardée*, proving that there is plenty of life in the company despite its recent traumas ....Page 21

Shining debut: Robert Wilson's "operetta", *Saints and Singing*, receives a *stunning UK premiere at* the Belfast Festival............Page 21

Armchair tycoon: *As others climb* from their beds cursing the alarm, Malcolm Stacey sleeps on. Bill Frost meets the man who has made a fortune on the stock market and wants to inspire others......Page 18

Shock tactics: What does the Social Affairs Unit hope to gain from its searingly prurient analysis of women's magazines? Tina Gaudoin reports ....Page [illegible]

Deadly dose: The first signs of trouble came in 1991, and were detected in a dead harbour porpoise washed ashore in the Moray Firth. Nick Nuttall on a lethal bacterium that could have a devastating *effect on Britain's marine* life ....Page 17

Football: A glorious late surge by Leeds United enabled them to defeat West Ham 3-1 in the FA Carling *Premiership match at Elland Road*..........................Page 27

Rugby union: The England management moved quickly to suspend Martin Johnson for one match after he punched Justin Marshall during the defeat by New Zealand on Saturday ....Page 31

[illegible] dream of regaining the world championship was still intact after *a tense opening day of the* Network Q RAC Rally ....Page 29

Tennis: Mary Pierce underlined her fondness for end-of-year events by reaching the final of the Chase Championships....................Page 28

Boxing: The long-delayed meeting between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield has moved nearer to being confirmed, with April the most likely date.................Page 39.

Golf: Tom Watson proved that he is still capable of producing some inspired performances by winning the Dunlop Phoenix tournament in Japan .... Page 39.

45, 8, 14, 28, 2[illegible]

Thirteen tickets share the £25 million [illegible] each; 18 each [illegible] numbers and the bonus: 1,766 win £1,182 for five balls; 84,000 win £54 for four; 1,450,000 win £10 for three.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS

From exploring space to playing Shakespeare: *Star Trek*'s Patrick Stewart tackles Othello

■ LAW

***Should the deliberate* misuse of trade secrets be a criminal offence?**

Preview: The History Hour (BBC2, 1.10pm) *Review:* Cilla's unsurprising success...........................Page 51

OPINION

Brown and green

The Treasury has been described as the "black hole" of the Whitehall network — nobody outside understands what happens within. Now is the time for some creative astronomy ....Page 23

Mugged by Mugabe

Black and white alike will suffer no matter how much land is redistributed. Britain is Zimbabwe's most consistent aid donor. If Mr Mugabe fulfils his reckless scheme, then he should receive nothing more ....Page 23

New day of the book

After its stormy birth, the new British Library opens its doors today. In its field of the book, it is as important a public building as St Paul's ....Page 23

PETER RIDDELL

The Blair Government is turning out to be remarkably conservative, even traditional, in its foreign policy...Page 22

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

It is fashionable to describe the financial crisis in Asia as a domino effect. If the Japanese domino falls, the American and European dominoes are unlikely to stay upright.......................................Page 22

RICHARD ROGERS

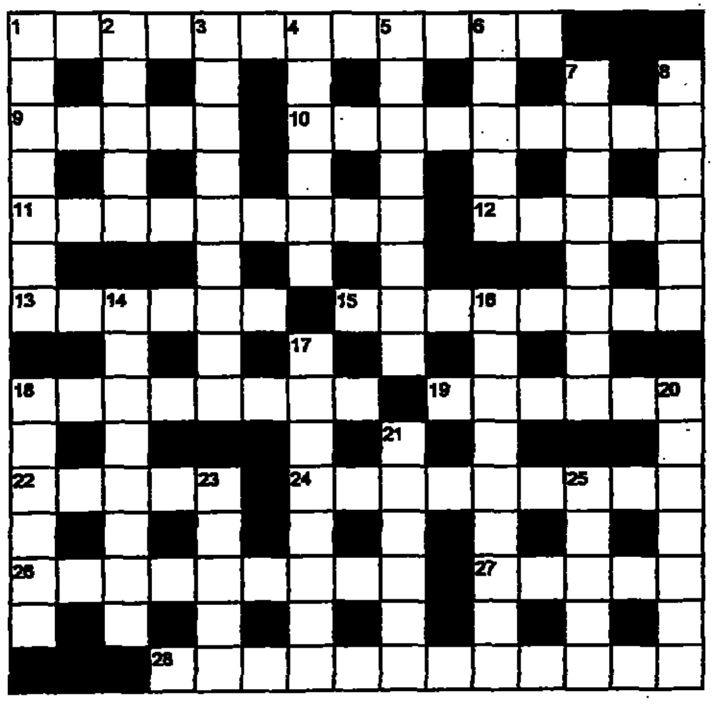
Nine out of ten Britons live in cities yet we see ourselves as a rural people who only grudgingly accept city life ....Page 22

Michael Hutchence, rock star; Monty Fresco, press photographer; Professor John Lawson, obstetrician..............................Page 25

Dr Friedman and EMU; Patten and Hague; NHS waiting lists; tobacco sponsorship in sport Page 23

There is a wide fear that we are heading for an "imperial" bipolar world run by the United States and a German-dominated Europe. The [illegible] is that powerful supranational European institutions such as the Central Bank will not be subject to any real democratic control — *La Stampa*, Turin

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,645



ACROSS

1 Certainly not an original idea (12).
9 Bizarre action in opposition to opening of cinema (5).
10 Impudent bounder, returning with gold, promises to pay (9).
11 Sound tool for cutting church carpet (9).
12 Jumblies' unseaworthy craft is put about by first mate (5).
13 Sweet drink's cold – replaced by hot ultimately (6).
15 Collected, like the works of *Beethoven* (8).
18 What occurs during siesta in castle in Spain? (8).
19 Popular move, building arch (6).
22 Additional trouble after head has left (5).
24 Land in border county (5,4).
26 Like some stories, can lead to novel (9).
27 Perform better than United in scoreless draw (5).
28 International firm's complaint about government cut (12).

DOWN

1 Unyielding Scottish architect and soldier, perhaps (7).
2 Clan emblem many carry aloft (5).
3 Disturbed near court, his relations may be 26 (9).
4 *Back-slapping* male with cultural pretensions (6).
5 Make rare opening in Government for weaker party (8).
6 Mediocre press cuttings? (5).
7 Not all are established, say, as county (8).
8 Some host endeavours to provide port (6).
14 Regulator with knowing wife is contemptible person (8).
16 Slug taken by blackbird in deep hollow (5-4).
17 Deed central to upset of corporation dogsbody (8).
18 Daughter had up, having pinched rings and small trinket (6).
20 Game in which score can just be beaten (7).
21 Draw level and come to a stop, either way (4,2).
23 Staff originally employed organising Wild West display (5).
25 Group of players taking 31 days over movie (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,644 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.

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Edinburgh 3.52 pm to 8.08 am
Manchester 4.00 pm to 7.52 am
Penzance 4.28 pm to 7.51 am

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Recycled paper made up 43.6% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the second half of 1996

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☐ **General:** a band of rain in the west will move slowly east, but some eastern areas could stay dry. Scotland will also have a windy and wet day. Northern Ireland will have a mix of sunny spells and showers.

☐ **London, SE, E England, E Anglia:** sunny spells in morning, cloudy later, but most places dry. Moderate SE wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Cent S&N, NE England, E&W Midlands:** bright spells, the rain. Moderate SE wind. Max 10C (50F).

☐ ***Channel Isles, SW, NW England,* S&N Wales, Lakes, IoM:** heavy rain on and off throughout day. Moderate SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** cloudy morning, rain later. Fresh SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

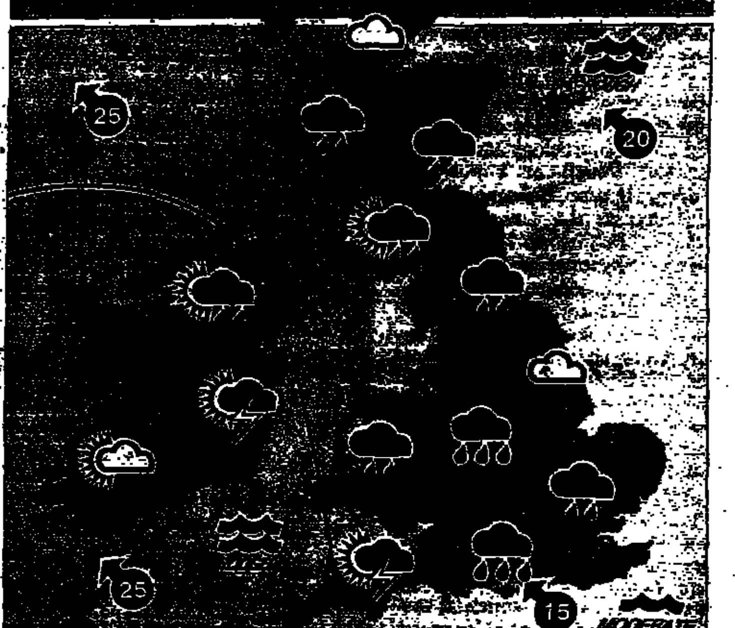
☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll:** *mostly cloudy with heavy rain.* Moderate to fresh SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** showers turning heavy. Fresh to strong SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

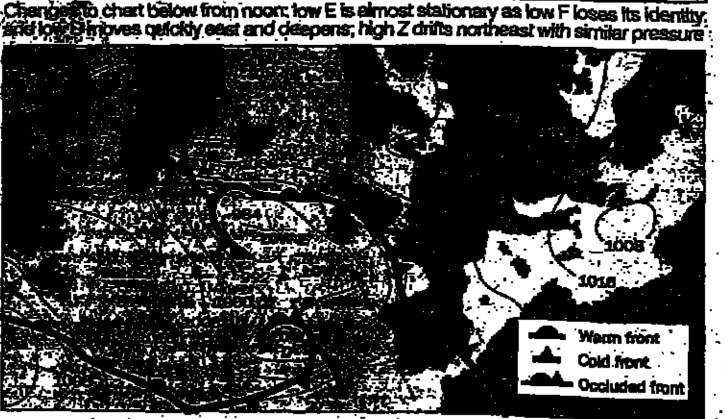
☐ **N Ireland:** early rain then sunshine and showers, more rain by evening. Moderate SE wind. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Republic of Ireland:** sun and *heavy showers. Wind fresh southerly.* Max temp 14C (54-57F).

☐ **Outlook:** more rain across the country tomorrow. Wednesday will remain unsettled and windy.



Changes to chart below from noon: low E is almost stationary as low F loses its identity and low B moves quickly east and deepens; high Z drifts northeast with similar pressure



24 hrs to 6 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	0.4	0.03	9	48	sh	Jersey	0.7	0.01	10	50	c
Anglesey	2.3	0.02	10	50	b	Kinloss	6.7	-	9	48	s
Aspatria	4.9	-	9	48	s	Leeds	-	0.02	6	43	fg
Aviemore	*0.4*	*0.01*	*7*	*45*	*c*	*Lerwick*	-	*0.56*	*8*	*46*	*sh*
Belfast	0.7	0.10	10	50	c	Leuchars	X				
Birmingham	-	0.01	7	45	fg	Littlehampton	2.8	0.56	11	52	s
Bognor R	5.1	0.01	11	52	s	London	2.9	0.01	12	54	s
Bournem'th	2.4	0.01	12	54	b	Lowestoft	4.3	-	11	52	b
Bristol	0.7	-	10	50	fg	*Manchester*	*1.9*	-	*8*	*46*	*b*
Buxton	-	0.01	5	41	fg	Margate	2.1	0.01	10	50	b
Cardiff	-	0.01	10	50	fg	Minehead	2.4	0.01	11	52	r
Clacton	4.1	-	10	50	c	Morecambe	1.8	-	9	48	b
Cleethorpes	0.5	0.01	9	48	fg	Newquay	-	0.23	11	52	r
Colwyn Bay	X					Norwich	3.9	0.01	11	52	b
Cromer	5.8	0.01	10	50	s	Oxford	-	0.01	9	48	
Eastbourne	1.5	-	11	52	du	Penzance	X	0.18	13	55	gS
Edinburgh	X					Poole	3.2	0.09	11	52	s
Eskdalemuir	1.3	0.01	7	45	c	*Prestatyn*	X	0.01	10	50	s
Exmouth	*0.2*	*0.11*	*11*	*52*	*r*	*Ross-o-wye*	*0.3*	*0.01*	*9*	*48*	*fg*
Falmouth	-	0.14	13	55	r	Saunton Snd	-	0.01	10	50	d
Fishguard	0.6	0.09	9	48	r	Shrewsbury	-	-	8	46	fg
Folkestone	0.1	-	10	50	c	Southend	5.5	0.01	11	52	s
Glasgow	2.7	-	8	46	c	Southport	-	0.01	8	46	c
Guernsey	*0.8*	*0.10*	*12*	*54*	*sh*	*Swanage*	*3.8*	*0.02*	*11*	*52*	*s*
Hastings	1.8	0.01	11	52	b	Teignmouth	0.1	0.14	12	54	r
Hayling I.	X	0.02	11	52	b	Tenby	-	0.20	11	52	r
Herne Bay	3.9	-	11	52	b	Tiree	1.4	0.07	9	48	sh
Hunstanton	X	-	10	50	s	Torquay	0.3	0.04	12	54	d
Isle-of-Man	*1.6*	*0.01*	*10*	*50*	*b*	Weston-s-mare	2.5	-	10	50	s
Isle-of-Wight	4.2	0.11	11	52	b	Weymouth	1.9	0.19	12	54	b

Ajaccio	16	61	c	Corfu	17	63	f	Majorca	13	55	r	Rome	15	59	r
Akrotiri	19	66	f	C'phagn	4	39	c	Malaga	16	61	s	S Fr'isco	14	57	f
Alex'dria	23	73	f	Dublin	8	46	s	Malta	-	-	-	S Paulo	X	-	-
Algiers	12	54	r	Dubrovnik	9	48	r	Melb'rne	29	84	s	Salzburg	1	34	fg
Amst'dm	10	50	f	Faro	16	61	s	Mexico C	21	70	s	Santiago	29	84	s
Athens	18	64	f	Florence	10	50	f	Miami	28	82	fg	Seoul	16	61	f
B Aires	28	82	f	Frankfurt	4	39	fg	Milan	10	50	f	Sing'por	29	84	f
Bahrain	25	77	f	Funchal	20	68	f	Montreal	-3	27	X	St'kholm	0	32	d
Bangkok	35	95	f	Geneva	7	45	c	Moscow	-4	25	c	Strasb'rg	3	37	fg
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	15	59	s	Munich	1	34	fg	Sydney	23	73	s
Barcelona	13	55	f	Helsinki	1	34	c	N Delhi	25	77	s	Tangier	17	63	f
Beirut	21	70	f	Hong K	25	77	f	N York	6	43	d	Tel Aviv	22	72	s
Belgrade	*9*	*48*	*s*	*Innsbrck*	6	43	s	*Nairobi*	25	77	f	Tenerife	23	73	f
Berlin	1	34	c	Istanbul	10	50	f	Naples	18	64	f	Tokyo	15	59	r
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Nice	15	59	f	Toronto	-3	27	sn
Biarritz	10	50	c	Jo'burg	20	68	s	Oslo	2	36	f	Tunis	20	68	s
Borde'x	11	52	r	L Angels	19	66	f	Paris	13	55	f	Valencia	15	59	f
Brussels	8	46	f	L Palmas	22	72	c	Peking	7	45	s	Vanc'ver	9	48	c
Budapst	1	34	c	Le Touqt	7	45	f	Perth	21	70	c	Venice	2	36	c
Cairo	23	73	f	Lisbon	13	55	r	Prague	1	34	fg	Vienna	1	34	c
Cape Tn	17	63	f	Locarno	8	46	s	Reykjavik	8	46	r	Warsaw	1	34	sl
Ch'church	14	57	-	Luxembg	7	45	s	Rhodes	19	66	f	Wash'ton	11	52	c
Chicago	6	43	s	Luxor	28	82	s	Rio de J	31	88	s	Wel'ngton	15	59	X
Cologne	4	39	c	Madrid	10	50	f	Riyadh	23	73	f	Zurich	4	39	c

Temperatures at midday local time on Saturday. X = not available

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	08.51	5.7	21.38	5.9	Leith	10.14	4.5	22.40	4.6
Aberdeen	09.19	3.5	21.32	3.6	Liverpool	06.46	7.3	19.11	7.6
Avonmouth	02.09	9.5	14.41	9.9	Lowestoft	04.25	2.2	18.11	2.2
Belfast	06.46	2.8	18.51	3.1	Margate	07.11	3.9	20.06	4.0
Cardiff	01.55	9.0	14.27	9.3	*Milford Haven*	*01.27*	5.1	13.58	5.4
Devonport	00.41	4.3	13.02	4.5	Newquay	00.26	5.2	12.58	5.5
Dover	06.33	5.4	19.19	5.3	Oban	01.37	3.0	14.08	3.2
Dn'Ln (N Wall)	07.33	3.4	19.51	3.6	Penzance	00.02	4.3	12.30	4.5
Falmouth	00.12	4.1	12.33	4.3	Portland	02.30	1.3	14.27	1.4
Greenock	08.24	2.9	19.59	3.0	Portsmouth	07.05	3.9	19.29	3.7
Harwich	06.42	3.1	19.42	3.2	Shoreham	06.32	5.0	19.12	4.7
Holyhead	06.15	4.5	18.28	4.7	Southampton	06.20	3.9	18.41	3.8
Hull (Albert D)	01.04	7.0	14.14	6.8	Swansea	01.23	7.2	13.55	7.4
Ilfracombe	01.10	6.8	13.42	7.1	Tees	11.33	4.3	23.48	4.6
King's Lynn	01.24	5.6	14.30	5.0	Walton-on-N	08.45	3.3	19.43	3.3

Friday: Highest day temp: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 14C (57F); lowest day max: Lough Fea, Co Tyrone, 06C (43F); highest rainfall: Tiree, Inner Hebrides, 0.93in; highest sunshine: Guernsey, Channel Islands, 7.7hr.

Total number of lives saved so far this year:	1,152
Total number of lifeboat launches so far this year:	4,732
Cost to RNLI per day:	£193,000
Cost to taxpayer:	£0
To make a donation, telephone:	0800 543210

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

RICH PICKINGS
Pilsudski rounds off career with lucrative victory in Japan Cup
PAGE 40

LIGHT FANTASTIC
England emerge from the All Blacks' shadow
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GREAT SCOT
McRae leads the pack in chase for world title
PAGE 29

PLUS
Reports from all the Premiership matches
PAGES 32-33

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

REDKNAPP LEFT TO PONDER ONE THAT GOT AWAY

Hasselbaink leads the late escape

MICHAEL STEELE

Haaland turns in celebration after heading Leeds ahead against West Ham at Elland Road yesterday

LEEDS UNITED 3 — **WEST HAM UNITED** 1

Hasselbaink 76, 90 Lampard 65
Haaland 88

Attendence: 30,031

BY OLIVER HOLT
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THEY were giving away free Yorkie *chocolate bars outside* Elland Road before the match yesterday afternoon. At first, it seemed as though it might be a symbol of the strange new spirit of generosity that has afflicted Leeds United in recent games. Soon, though, it became apparent that it was just the binge before the reimposition of the fast.

They have conceded six goals in the *past two games, this team that* is supposed to be a byword for parsimony in defence and restraint in attack, but yesterday, to the puzzlement of their manager, George Graham, Leeds began to revert to type with a win over West Ham United that took them to the heady heights of fourth place in the FA Carling Premiership.

Gone, it seemed, was the flair and the abandon that brought them back from three goals down against Derby County in their previous Premiership game and gave them a 4-3 win. We began writing obituaries for the old Leeds after that game, but yesterday, for that depressing first hour, it reappeared in all its spartan ugliness.

Leeds had created little if any danger and had not even produced a single shot on target until 15 minutes from the end, when they went on a scoring spree that yielded three goals, a brace from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink and another from Alf Inge Haaland. It left West Ham staring into the evening gloom in disbelief. For the other 75 minutes, though, Leeds had been the models of defensive propriety, content to turn the game into the dourest of struggles.

Only when Frank Lampard scored a superb opening goal in the 64th minute did Leeds whip themselves into their attacking frenzy. So superior, so clinical were they when they cast caution *aside that it* almost seemed that they had been indulging in some sort of academic exercise until then, seeing how long they could keep the game locked in a stalemate.

Graham said afterwards: "It would be nice to have the answer to why we suddenly started going forward and playing positive football when we went 1-0 down. I *would like us to have done that* right from the start, but I think we were a bit apprehensive at the beginning and I was disappointed with their peformance overall.

"We have played a lot of very exciting games this year and, if you are a realist and not a dreamer, you know that with those excellent games you are going to get a *percentage* of average games and some poor ones, too. If you have bad games, the trick is to make sure you get something out of them and we managed that today.

"Fourth place is much more than I expected at this time of the season. There are a lot of clubs doing well that you might not necessarily think would be up there, so nothing surprises me. But we are not kidding ourselves. We have got a lot of improving to do and a lot of hard work. We are going to get knock-backs when we are building this team, but, so far, I am pleased with its progress."

Deprived of one of their chief creative influences, Harry Kewell, *who scored Australia's goal in the* World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran in Teheran on Saturday, Leeds looked lost when they tried to press forward in the first half. They spurned one excellent chance three minutes before the interval, when Hasselbaink headed over the bar from six yards *out from Ribeiro's cross, but, that* apart, they had hardly troubled the West Ham defence.

Five minutes after the break, Leeds had what appeared to be a legitimate claim for a penalty turned down when Unsworth brought down Wallace, but the referee, bored, perhaps, by the earlier balletic falls of Hasselbaink, turned away all the anguished *appeals. After that, Leeds's day* seemed as though it would be summed up by a cross-field pass from Hasselbaink that sailed ten feet over Bowyer's head and into touch without a bounce.

That impression increased when Lampard ran on to Hartson's fine header and swept a flashing right-foot shot from 20 yards across Martyn and into the corner of the *net. He ran over to the same corner* as his father had made for after scoring in an FA Cup semi-final replay here 17 years ago and danced round the flag — just as Frank Sr had done. It was his fourth goal in two games after his hat-trick in the Coca-Cola Cup-tie against Walsall in midweek. "He is the sort of player we will build this club around," Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said.

The goal transformed Leeds. Hasselbaink curled a right-foot shot round the defensive wall and in off a post for the equaliser. Three minutes from the end, Haaland put *the home side* ahead when he rose above Pearce to nod in Ribeiro's corner. Then, on the stroke of full time, Hasselbaink rubbed salt into the wounds by stooping to direct Robertson's cross past Martyn.

After the match, Redknapp was asked about the atmosphere in the away dressing-room. "It's terrific," he said bitterly, "the boys are all singing and dancing and looking *forward to a long journey home.* I thought we had it all sewn up. They were going nowhere and then we conceded a bad goal and that was it. If you come away from home and do not let them have a shot for 70 minutes, you cannot ask for much more than that."

It was impossible not to feel sorry for Redknapp, but Graham could tell him a thing or two about the flaw in his argument.

LEEDS UNITED (3-5-2): N Martyn — G Halle, D Wetherall, L Radebe — G Kelly, L Bowyer, A I Haaland, B Ribeiro, D Robertson — J F Hasselbaink, R Wallace.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-3-1-2): L Miklosko — T Breacker, S Potts, I Pearce, D Unsworth — F Lampard, S Lomas, A Impey — E Berkovic (sub: J *Moncur, 84min*) — S Abou (sub: J Dowie, 86), J Hartson.

Referee: G Ashby.

Liverpool lose faith 32
Atkinson's triumph 33
Birmingham slide 35
Hearts break out 35
Pleat seeking mission 36

TOP OF TABLE

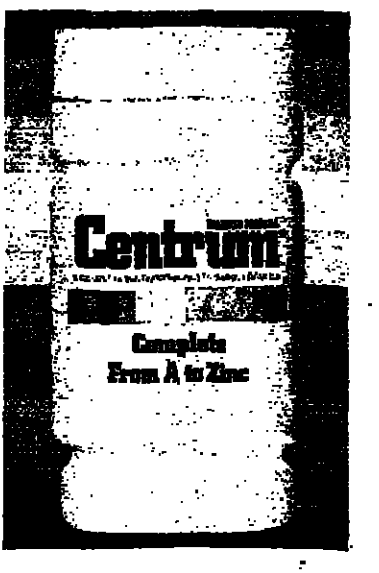
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	15	9	4	2	36	12	31
Blackburn	15	8	6	1	27	13	30
Arsenal	15	7	6	2	30	17	27
Leeds	15	8	2	5	23	17	26
Chelsea	14	8	1	5	29	17	25
Derby	14	7	2	5	28	20	23
Leicester	15	6	5	4	19	14	23
Liverpool	14	6	4	4	25	14	22

Johnson receives ban

ENGLAND'S rugby union players will re-assemble in Richmond tomorrow reflecting on the lessons of defeat by New Zealand in Manchester on Saturday and the loss, for the encounter this Saturday with South Africa at Twickenham, of Martin Johnson (David Hands writes). The Leicester lock was suspended yesterday for one match after a punching incident with Justin Marshall, the All Blacks scrum half and captain.

The incident happened early in the Old Trafford international and Johnson's own management made the decision to ban him. After viewing video evidence, Roger Uttley, the team manager, said: "We are very concerned that all our players are seen to be playing within the rules and laws of rugby football. It was considered that, in one particular incident, Martin transgressed." Johnson, 27 and capped 32 *times, will be available for selection again when the return match with* New Zealand is played at Twickenham on December 6.

T'S 100% ARE Y



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TENNIS: FRENCHWOMAN TAKES ADVANTAGE TO REACH FINAL AFTER COMPATRIOT TIRES IN NEW YORK

Pierce responds to thrill of the chase

FROM ALIX RAMSAY
IN NEW YORK

RON FREHM

Novotna, who stands in the way of Pierce securing victory in the Chase Championships for the first time

MARY PIERCE has fond memories of Madison Square Garden. One of the most *infuriatingly erratic players* on the circuit — she won her first grand-slam title two years ago, but has done very little since — *she has always done* well at the end-of-year championships.

In the past, she has claimed the scalps of Martina Navratilova, Steffi Graf and Gabriela Sabatini. Now, only Jana Novotna stands in the way of her first title in the famous arena here.

Pierce reached the final of the Chase Championships with a predictably twitchy three-sets win over Nathalie Tauziat, her French Fed Cup team-mate, 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. It was not a pretty encounter, with Pierce at times powerful and in control and, at others, paralysed by stage fright. Against a dogged campaigner such as Tauziat, it was never *going to be a quick match.*

Going through the full range of pre-point antics, Pierce was given a warning for time-wasting as she flexed the legs, bounced up and down, re-arranged the shoulders and then thought about preparing to serve. Even she admits that she can be difficult on court and, when she watches the videos of her matches, she cringes at the theatrical rituals she goes through in between points.

The overall effect, however, has been impressive this year. She was presented with the comeback player-of-the-year award on Friday night and now, working with Craig Kardon, she feels she is back on track after two seasons plagued by injury and illness.

Against Tauziat, Pierce thundered through the first set, making the most of her baseline power, but Tauziat had other plans in the second. One of the few serve-and-volley players on the women's circuit, she foiled Pierce's tactics just often enough to allow the doubts to creep into Pierce's fragile mind. But when it came to the crunch, Tauziat, 30, did not have enough left at the end of a long and successful season to polish off her opponent.

Novotna came through her semi-final with a little more ease, beating Irina Spirlea 7-6, 6-2. Spirlea, who in the early days was compared to Graf, is one of the unsung heroines of women's *tennis. She broke* into the top ten at the end of last year, stayed there throughout this season, reaching the semi-finals of the US Open, and yet she is known only as the woman who bumped into Venus Williams at Flushing Meadows.

Not that it bothers her much. She only took up tennis by accident. Her parents insisted that she did something useful with her spare time and one day sent her to a violin lesson in the morning and a tennis lesson in the afternoon. She thought she could have more fun with a racket than a bow and decided to give tennis a whirl. Against Novotna, who thrives on indoor tennis, *she was never given the opportunity to play* her own tune.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sorenstam on course to maintain cash flow

■ **GOLF:** Annika Sorenstam, of Sweden, had a third-round score of 67 to take a one-shot lead after three rounds of the LPGA Tour Championship in Las Vegas. Sorenstam began the day four shots behind Pat Hurst, the leader after two rounds, and got off *to a slow start with eight straight pars.* However, she had five birdies in the next six holes to move to the top of the leaderboard.

Sorenstam, the leader in the US LPGA money-list, was *one shot in front of Kelly Robbins and Nancy Lopez, both of the* United States. Robbins had a round of 69 and Lopez a 71. "I don't walk down the fairway thinking 'money-list', but I know what it means," Sorenstam said. "It's on my mind." *Eight players* were within three shots of the lead, including Karrie Webb, of Australia, the defending champion.

Hammond deflated

■ **CYCLO-CROSS:** **A puncture ruined Roger Hammond's chances of marking his return to domestic racing with a win in the London Open championship yesterday. The former world junior champion lost so much ground that Nick Craig was able to break clear on the demanding Addington Hills circuit. When Hammond did rejoin the chasing group, Craig was well away and won by 58sec from Nico Clarysse, of Belgium. Hammond had to settle for third place, a further 12sec back.**

Mann is top woman

■ **BADMINTON:** Julia Mann became the first English winner of the women's singles at the Scottish Open championship for seven years, winning in 18 minutes against Rebecca Pantaney, *her compatriot, at Edinburgh yesterday* (Richard Eaton writes). Mann, seeded No 2, won 11-3, 11-5 against the English No 11, who had produced the best win of her career by beating Kara Solmundson, of Canada, in the the semi-finals. In the men's final, Steffen Pandya, of England, was beaten by Tjitte Weistra, of Holland, 15-7, 9-15, 15-11.

Sharp shooter strikes

■ **SHOOTING:** **England continued to collect medals at the Commonwealth championships in Langkawi, Malaysia, where Becky Sharp, 17, the youngest member of the England team, has won two silver medals and a bronze. Sharp won her second silver medal with Louise Minett in the women's air rifle pairs, then took bronze with Louise Volpin, in the women's three-position pairs.**

Sethi breakthrough

■ **BILLIARDS:** Gee Sethi won the eighth world ranking tournament of his career but his first in Britain by defeating Roxton Chapman, of Peterborough, 698-293 in the final of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Preston yesterday (Phil Yates writes). Sethi, a hero in his native India after capturing *the world professional title* on home soil on three occasions, won a prize of £7,500.

Britons feel strain

■ **SQUASH:** **Simon Parke and Del Harris, of England, ran out of stamina when they were beaten in the first round of the Qatar International championship in Doha. Parke and Harris, who helped England to defend the world team championship in Malaysia last week, showed clear signs of the lingering effects of those efforts.**

Results, page 41

Struggle for Bray

■ **REAL TENNIS:** Rob Fahey, of Australia, and Chris Bray, *the Petworth House professional,* will *meet in the final of* The British Land British Open championship at Queen's Club tomorrow. Bray was kept on court for three hours in his semi-final before beating James Male in four sets.

Winners on the map

■ **ORIENTEERING:** **Rob Lee, of Edinburgh Interlopers, and Sarah Pattinson, of Mar, won the Scottish League elite titles for the first time yesterday, despite finishing outside the top three in the final event of the season at Linn of Tummell.**

HOCKEY

Slough move five points clear at top

BY A CORRESPONDENT

GOOD travellers that they are, Slough achieved their expected victory at Ipswich, the 5-2 success putting them *five points* clear at the top of the women's National League. Clifton also fared well away from home, winning 3-0 win at Hightown to move into second place.

Ipswich struck first, Sarah Bamfield scoring with a snapshot in the 21st minute. *Slough opened up their game* and were rewarded with goals either side of half-time from Julia Robertson, at a penalty corner, and Jane Smith.

Ipswich were revived through Tracey Fry's equaliser in the 46th minute, but their hopes were short-lived. Sarah Kelleher, the Ireland international, recovered her blocked shot to beat Jo Thompson, the Ipswich goalkeeper, at the second attempt, before two late goals from Mandy Nicholls made the game safe.

Clifton wasted no time in setting up their victory, Denise Marston-Smith punishing a hesitant defence from the first penalty corner after three minutes. Clifton's spirit and organisation was further rewarded in the 48th minute, when Lucy Culliford finished off a slick passing movement. A penalty stroke by Marston-Smith's nine minutes later completed the scoring.

There was little change of position in the first division, but Canterbury's 1-1 home draw with Chelmsford *strengthened the position of* Leicester, the leaders, who had an emphatic 5-1 victory against Bracknell.

Cannock hit for six but remain top

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK, despite a 6-1 trouncing by Canterbury yesterday, retained the premier division leadership of the National League, a point ahead of Southgate, Reading and East Grinstead. Canterbury hold fifth position.

Bobby Crutchley *scored* a consolation goal for Cannock in the 61st minute in answer to Canterbury's barrage of shots, from which Wicken and Humphries each hit the target twice, with Mathews and Hacker chipping in from short corners.

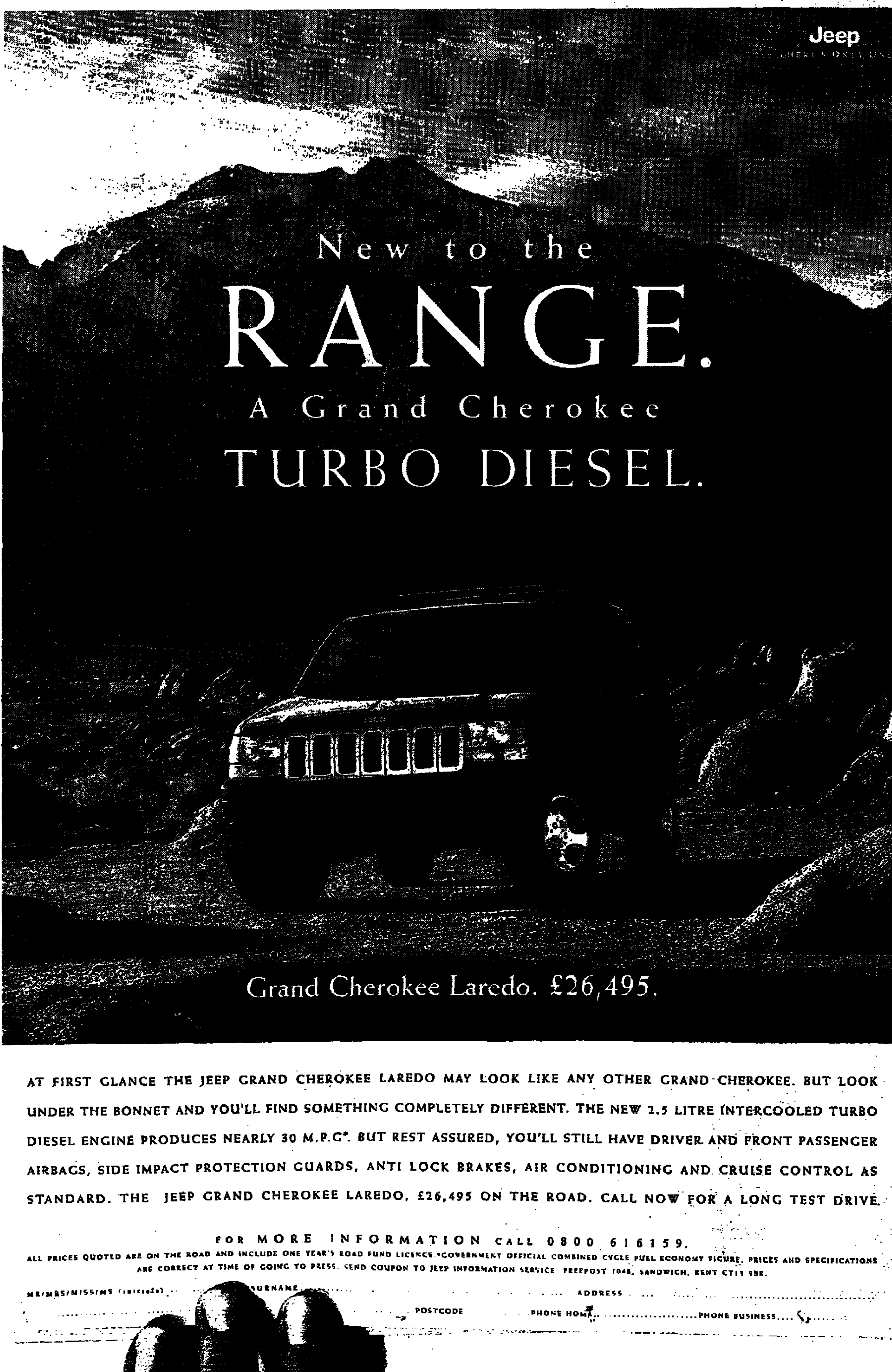
Southgate lost 5-2 on their visit to Reading, their goals coming from Woods and Duthie, from short corners. Reading's goals were provided by Saunders; Slay, from a short corner, and Manpreet Kochar and were followed by two from Pearn in the sixtieth and 62nd minutes.

East Grinstead recorded a 3-0 home win against Beeston, with goals by Laird, Barnes from a short corner and Mills.

Two mid-table teams battled for supremacy at Chigwell, where Old Loughtonians, the *home side,* emerged 4-3 victors over Teddington, transforming a 2-1 deficit into a 4-2 lead. Shrives, *Morrison, from* a short corner, Scott Smith and Lee scored for Old Loughtonians, with Conway finding the target twice for Teddington and Laslett reducing the home side's advantage two minutes before the end.

Guildford lifted themselves off the bottom of the table with a 4-3 victory over Doncaster.

Results, page 41



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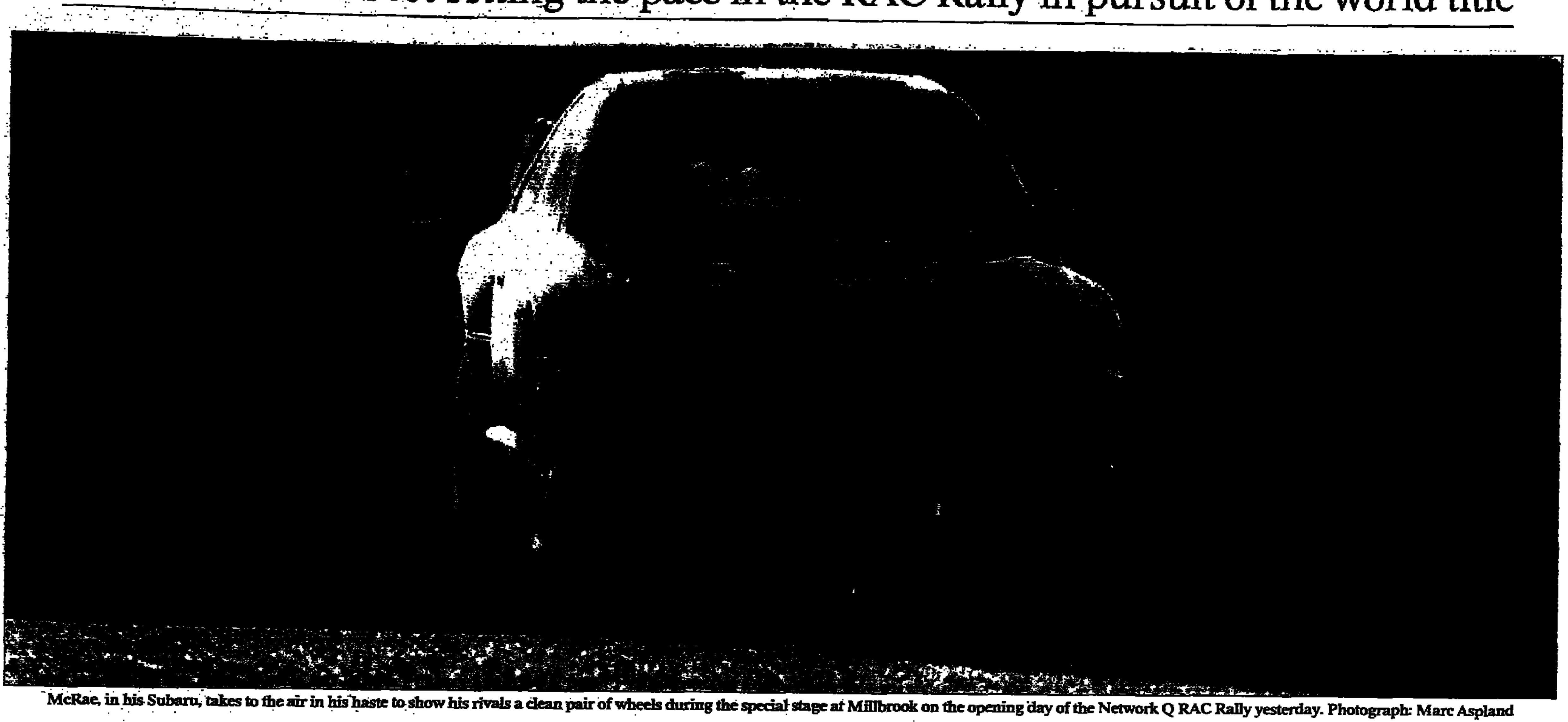
هكذا من الأهل

Alan Lee on the Scot setting the pace in the RAC Rally in pursuit of the world title



McRae, in his Subaru, takes to the air in his haste to show his rivals a clean pair of wheels during the special stage at Millbrook on the opening day of the Network Q RAC Rally yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

McRae's hopes accelerated by blistering start

He did not expect to enjoy the intricate showpieces of the opening day and he was right. However, Colin McRae, returned to headquarters in the Network Q RAC Rally last night with his improbable dream alive and kicking, the roles in the world championship duel subtly altered. McRae leads after the first of three days and Tommi Makinen, weighed down by sickness and expectation, is the one hanging on.

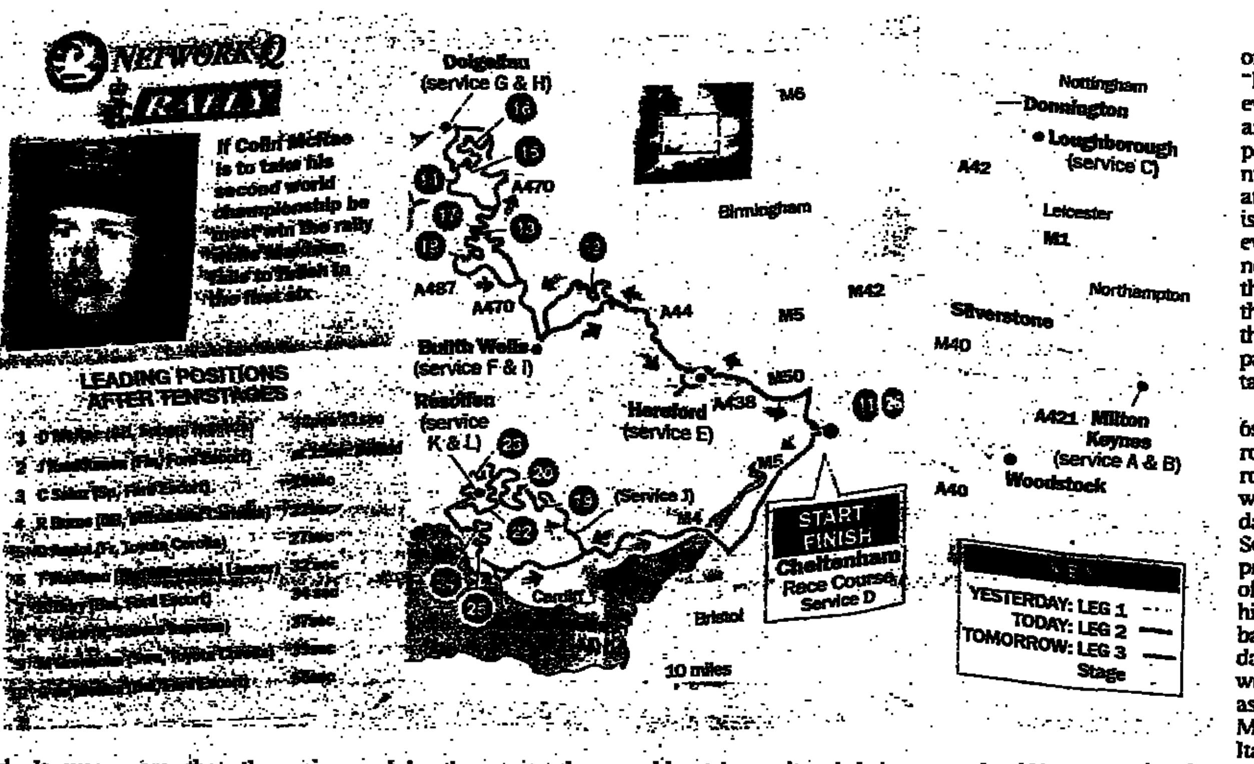
Only a fool or a romantic would draw anything more than optimism for the British interest when the arduous legs of this rally still lie ahead, but McRae, forced to play catch-up in this final event of the year, can do no more than attack and he is doing it tigerishly, 9sec ahead of the field. Makinen lies sixth, the lowest placing that he can afford to claim the title if McRae should win.

If Cheltenham's trilbies and tweeds were already inclined to look askance at their first invasion of woollen-hatted anoraks, their suspicions were doubtless confirmed in the hour before dawn. On the roads outside the racecourse, whose sport is customarily staged at a more civilised hour, a panicky madness was threatening. With all approaches blocked, competitors bringing in their cars from the secure nightstops in the town obeyed instinct rather than highway code, driving up the wrong carriageway and even taking the racecourse roundabout anticlockwise to avoid the penalties of unpunctuality.

Inside, fog was fast descending, all but obliterating the view from the stands. The crowds that embrace this rally obsessively had begun queueing at 4am; thousands were there, shivering and squinting, as McRae took an early lead over Makinen before the fourth car away brought the first and most profound drama of the day.

The rally cannot be won on its first day, but, for the luckless, it can certainly be lost. Kenneth Eriksson is McRae's Subaru team-mate. He was also seen as his guard, someone who might help to keep Makinen out of the top six. The team insurance theory lasted precisely 800 metres into the murk, whereupon Eriksson's engine gave a terminal splutter. McRae and his co-driver, Nicky Grist, were instantly exposed, their management anxious.

The concern was not only for Eriksson, a popular Swede, who was left devastated. It was more that the electrical problem that so abruptly ended his rally might just be contagious — might, indeed, be a repeat of the camshaft failures that eliminated both the leading Subarus in Finland in August.



Cheltenham's involvement, pioneered by the constantly entrepreneurial managing director, Edward Gillespie, has not been unanimously applauded. Some horse racing trainers consider it little short of sacreligious that the mecca of their sport should endure such a conversion and the travails of car No 83 would not have altered their opinion.

Even as the fog lifted, Jane Gunningham lost control, demolishing barriers and advertising boards before leaving a dark, spinning scar across the famous, manicured lawn directly below the royal box, in which the Cheltenham chairman, Lord Vestey, was breakfasting.

Yet the sceptics are in a tiny minority. Lord Vestey's guests may have looked a shade uncomfortable, wearing what they had guessed to be correct rallying gear, but the atmosphere of a unique event won them over.

The great claim of the organisers is that theirs is "Britain's biggest sporting event". They say it is watched annually by 2.5 million people, though as a negligible number have to register their attendance with hard cash it is not clear if this includes everyone who twitches their net curtains as the cars pass their homes. Cheltenham, though, did nothing to mock the claims. The stands were packed, every vantage point taken.

McCrae led Makinen by 6sec after the initial stage round the asphalt and gravel roads of the racecourse and he was 8sec up after the next dash through Blenheim. Soon, Makinen had other problems, too. On the second of three stages at Silverstone, his Mitsubishi hit a tyre barrier and sustained panel damage. To make matters worse, the Finn — apparently assured of the title until McRae's charging victories in Italy and Australia — was suffering with flu symptoms.

On Saturday evening, as the odds against McRae were soberly surveyed, the words of his team manager, Dave Richards, had seemed no more than tub-thumping. "Tommi," he said, "is the one with everything to lose. Colin has no pressure. He can only be the hero." Early to be confident, of course, but as the posse moved on to Millbrook, then back for an innovative Silverstone superstage, on which two cars drove head to head, Richards began to wear the look of a prophet. McRae and Makinen set off together, the Scot flashing his rival a relaxed grin before launching into the water-splash and increasing his lead by a further second.

Makinen was never far off the placing he needs to make even a McRae victory irrelevant, though, and, as the day drew to its end around Donington and on the reverse stage back at Cheltenham, he achieved it. McRae, who had traded pole position all day with Juha Kankkunen, was back in front, but his great rival was now clear sixth, 21sec adrift.

"I haven't enjoyed today," McRae insisted. "I'd prefer it if this rally spent three days in the forests." Makinen, who pointed out the difficulty of being first car on such tight, slippery stages, would probably agree. For both, real rallying begins in Radnor Forest at sun-up today. The title will be decided in the wilds of Wales.

BASKETBALL

Wood reinforces Worthing mettle

By Nicholas Harling

THE scaremongers who have seemed only too eager over the past week to publicise the demise of Worthing Bears have done little to dampen spirits on the South Coast. Not only were the Bears watched by a near-capacity crowd on Saturday, but Bob Wood, their new joint-owner, was adamant that the club will not close, even though Ryan Cuff is this week almost certain to become their second player to fly home to the United States, joining Shawn Swords and the coach, Chris Jones, who have already left.

"Everyone is predicting a picture of doom and gloom, but it's not like that at all," Wood said after the Bears' 98-80 home defeat by Manchester Giants.

"The world is full of basketball players. I've had seven faxes today from people wanting to play for us. We've still got a pretty darn good team here and that team is not going to fold. The rumour mill has gone berserk. I've been patient until now, but I'm just about to lose that."

Results 41

Wood and Christian Hamilton have taken over as co-owners from Greg Fullerton, whose assets have been frozen by the Inland Revenue, leaving the club precariously short of funds. Cuff, one of the most exciting new American guards in the Budweiser League this season, is not desperate to join the exodus, but is in a dilemma because his wife, Lisa, has already been forced to fly back to Salt Lake City.

Cuff has left the apartment on the promenade that the couple shared, moving in with other players, all of whom are receiving less than half their original salaries.

"I wish I could stay," he said, "but I've still got to have discussions and take care of some personal things. At the moment, we're all hanging on making the best of it."

Normally a prolific scorer from the back court, Cuff was clearly below his best on Saturday. Displaying his usual panache, he opened the scoring with a three-pointer, but was benched after two senseless fouls, after which he added only two more three-pointers, finishing with 11 points. Ryan Williams, who is sharing the coaching with the club's long-term assistant coach, Neil McElduff, collected 25 points, two fewer than Robert Churchwell's match-winning contribution for the Giants.

The score was almost the same at Crystal Palace, where Newcastle Eagles won 97-80 with the help of 22 points from Liam McGee. Palace made the running in the early stages, but an 11-0 burst from the Eagles in the final quarter put the game out of their reach.

Leopards and Birmingham Bullets, meanwhile, both seem to have booked themselves a place in the quarter-finals of the Uni-ball Trophy after wins over Thames Valley Tigers and Watford Royals on Saturday.

SNOOKER

Hamilton reeled in by Hendry

By Phil Yates

ANTHONY HAMILTON, still searching in vain for his first quarter-final in a world ranking event after making 11 unsuccessful appearances in the last 16, again played the role of nearly-man when he lost 9-8 to Stephen Hendry in a memorable fourth-round encounter at the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom championship at Preston Guild Hall on Saturday night.

Yet, when Hamilton led 8-5 and later 68-0 in the sixteenth frame, Hendry's hopes of extending his winning sequence in the event to 21 matches and lifting the trophy for a fourth year in succession had all but disappeared.

Hendry then exhibited his renowned steel under pressure to supplement the lengthy list of fightbacks in which he has been involved. However, not since he recovered from 8-4 down to edge Dean Reynolds in the last 32 of the 1994 staging, has he reserved such escapology for the United Kingdom championship.

"I knew I'd lose when it went 8-8 because my head went," Hamilton said. "The pressure got to me. Stephen is the greatest player in the history of the game and to beat him just once is something you'll take to your death bed."

Favoured so heavily by momentum, it was no surprise that Hendry convincingly won the deciding frame to earn a reprieve and a quarter-final against Alan McManus or Jason Prince.

SAILING

Krantz applies finishing touch after flying start

From Edward Gorman
Sailing Correspondent
in Fremantle

IT WILL go down as one of the greatest "flyers" in yacht racing history and yesterday it paid its final dividend when the elegant *Swedish Match* ghosted across the finish line here to record a resounding victory in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

It was a victory more or less sealed just two hours after the start in Cape Town 15 days ago, when Gunnar Krantz, the skipper, and his No 2, Erle Williams, broke all their own rules and tacked off to the west to find an offshore breeze while the remainder of the fleet floundered in calms in the lee of the Cape Peninsula.

From then on, *Swedish Match*, which suffered an equivalent dose of bad luck in the first leg, when she was left behind on the very first night and finally reached South Africa in eighth place, never looked back. She built a 200-300 mile lead and despite feeling "bounded" as they rode successive low-pressure systems through the Southern Ocean, Krantz and his crew were good enough to hold on.

As they arrived yesterday, *Kvaerner Innovation* was around 200 miles astern in second place, with *Toshiba* another 100 miles further back in third.

For Krantz, this was *the* perfect answer to his critics after his poor showing on the way to Cape Town. He has never denied that there was an element of luck in his tactics at the start, but it is to his credit that he had the courage to go for a risky and potentially ruinous option and to make it work.

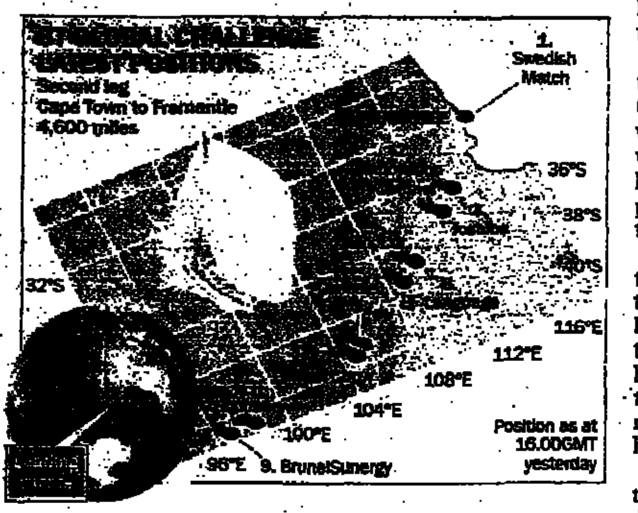
"Looking back, we can see clear milestones on the leg where we did good," he said. "We had lots of luck at times when the weather gods looked after us in critical situations. One such was when we were racing south to escape the high pressure system moving in south of Africa at the beginning of the leg. I am sure we are talking about a couple of hours difference from being magic to being tragic."

Swedish Match's performance, which propels her to fourth position overall, underlines the importance of not breaking gear, but it also emphasises that the key to winning in this race has so far been less to do with boat speed than with routing and tactics. In so closely matched a fleet, the smallest tactical variations have produced enormous contrasts in fortunes.

Among those left to dwell on that for the past week has been Chris Dalton, on *Merit Cup*, who has had to come to terms with the shock of finding himself dumped in seventh place. Yet he was big enough to congratulate Krantz.

"What is impressive is that they have been able to pick themselves up from an even bigger disaster in the first leg than we are having and come back fighting. This to me is their true strength and is a model for us for our next leg," he said.

"We are just going through the motions. If that sounds defeatist, it's not, just the reality of this situation where you get no prizes for breaking the boat now."



POSITIONS (at 16.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Fremantle): 1, Swedish Match (Swe) finished at 15.15; 2, Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) 192.4; 3, Toshiba (US) 289.9; 4, Silk Cut (GB) 441.5; 5, EF Language (Swe) 480.3; 6, Chessie Racing (US) 691.4; 7, Merit Cup (Monaco) 908.7; 8, EF Education (Swe) 991.2; 9, BrunelSunergy (Holl) 1080.2

Keep our opinions to yourself.

It's all very well to say share and share alike, but in all honesty wouldn't you prefer to enjoy at leisure your own copy of the Times Educational Supplement? The FE Focus section, in particular, really does deserve much more than a rushed flick through in the staffroom. So for opinions worth taking the time to listen to, buy your own copy, take it home and keep it to yourself.

FE FOCUS

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION: SELECTORS IN THE DARK AS AUSTRALIA SPARKLE AT LAST

Scottish power in urgent need of positive charge

Scotland	8
Australia	37

BY MARK SOUSTER

THE Scotland management team will wince tonight as they sift through the debris of this shambolic performance, trying to select a side to face South Africa on December 6. They will do so in the knowledge that the world champions took France apart on Saturday, while at Murrayfield Scotland succumbed in the second half with a performance that plumbed new depths of ineptitude. They were exposed as *second-rate and ordinary* — which was all the more galling as Australia were often little better. The selectors have a thankless task.

They may consider wholesale changes, but the fact remains that there are no quick fixes. Having set out their stall, they must try to have the courage of their convictions; wholesale improvement is what is needed. Doddie Weir may be fit to be considered and Rob Wainwright may have to bring forward his return after injury, but they alone will make little difference. There are far more fundamental problems facing Scotland.

Large sections of a crowd of 45,000 were leaving in droves well before the end, adding to the funereal atmosphere within the stadium. Even with Jim Telfer and Ian McGeechan enjoying a more hands-on role in support of Richie Dixon and David Johnston, Scotland were disorganised and witless, while the concerns about the ability of the front five to withstand Australia's aggressive scrummaging proved well founded.

Larkham: unheralded

Without a modicum of stability, Nicol and Townsend were unable to establish any measure of control. Townsend was an abject figure, unsure and uncertain. Surrounded by the cream of the British Isles in South Africa, Townsend shone. In a Scottish context, it is time to move him away from *fly half*.

Dixon criticised the team's decision-making and, by implication, Nicol. "I am very, very disappointed," he said. "I can hardly remember a *more disappointing* second half." However, he is adamant that Scotland must continue their attempts to develop a more fluid style and not retreat into a shell merely for expediency.

Equally unhappy was James Craig, making his debut on the right wing, who understandably looked overawed *by the* whole occasion. His defensive naivety was repeatedly exposed and, given that Scotland were in retreat for so long, the only opportunity that he had to show his pace was when he raced back to deny Elton Flatley a try.

Both sides scored tries in an error-strewn and emminently forgettable first half. Scotland's came after a clever break by Tait, who provided Craig with his one chance in the match. He was *bundled into touch but, from the* lineout, Foley missed Eales by a mile and Scott Murray, once he had got over his surprise, flopped over the line.

The lead always appeared fragile and, in injury time, after five successive scrums on the Scots' line, Australia equalised, Roff rounding off a stirring backline move. The second half was all about Stephen Larkham, the least heralded of Australia's vaunted back three. First, he collected *Tait's intended chip for Craig and* ran and dribbled his way 70 metres to the line, then he weaved his way 40 metres through an incredulous defence after Nicol's clearance kick missed touch.

It was left to Dixon to face the music. "South Africa will be a very, very hard proposition, but at least some of the new guys have been in a fire now," he said. The trouble is, they were scalded.

SCORERS: Scotland: Try: Murray (30min). Penalty goal: Hodge (27). Australia: Tries: Larkham 2 (43, 58), Roff (39), Gregan (64), Ofahengaue (80). Conversions: Eales 3. Penalty goals: Eales 2 (11, 41).

SCORING SEQUENCE (Scotland first): 0-3, 3-3, 8-3, 8-8 (half-time), 8-15, 8-18, 8-25, 8-30, 8-37.

SCOTLAND: D W Hodge (Watsonians); J M Craig (West of Scotland), A G Stanger (Hawick; rep: C M Chalmers, Melrose, 74), A V Tait (Newcastle), K M Logan (Wasps); G P J Townsend (Northampton), A D Nicol (Bath, captain); D I W Hilton (Bath; rep: M J Stewart, 79), G McKelvey (Watsonians), M J Stewart (Northampton; rep: G Graham, Newcastle, 63), S Campbell (Dundee HSFP), S Murray (Bedford), A Roxburgh (Kelso; rep: S Grimes, Watsonians, 40), I R Smith (Moseley, rep: Grimes, 23-31), E W Peters (Bath).

AUSTRALIA: S Larkham (ACT); B N Tune (Queensland), T J Horan (Queensland), P W Howard (ACT), J W Roff (ACT); E Flatley (Queensland), G M Gregan (ACT); R L L Harry (NSW), M A Foley (Queensland), A T Blades (NSW), J Langford (NSW), J A Eales (Queensland, captain), O Finegan (ACT), B J Robinson (ACT; rep: D J Wilson, Queensland, 40), W Ofahengaue (NSW).

Referee: W T S Henning (South Africa)

Humble pie served cold

Christopher Irvine finds a lack of nourishment on the Murrayfield menu

No Scot enjoys what they call a right gubbing, which explained the banks of unsold seats at a *withdrawn and fearful* Murrayfield. Even *Flower of Scotland* shrivelled at the third line, the one about fighting and dying for country, shortly before the home defence laid down its arms and waved through the virtuoso Stephen Larkham for a second time.

Who was the Scottish Rugby Union kidding with its giveaway pie vouchers? The game was no easier to stomach on free meat and potato. Kaolin and morphine, perhaps. Only those with steel nerves need apply for tickets for the South Africa game on Saturday week, while Scotland's only crumb of comfort is that they have at least been spared a visit by New Zealand.

Those brave enough to show their faces were as hopelessly outdated with their Skippy taunts as *their enfeebled team was in* trying to counter the running style of the new-age Australians. Winged heels, which stayed grounded in Argentina and were slow off the mark against England last week, and again in the first half on Saturday, finally took flight and Scotland tugged their collective forelock. Together, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa have demonstrated that, for all its tradition, the five nations' championship is no more influential in the global professional era than a backyard scrap. Scotland's problem is that they can sell the games in which they stand a chance of winning, but not the ones when the words "guaranteed slaughter" may as well be printed on the tickets.

Northern Hemisphere 0 Southern Hemisphere 3 was the most predictable score on Saturday. The arguments about fitter, more skilled, athletic, powerful and pacier players crosses both *rugby codes*. A *shortage of good* raw material is not confined to rugby league.

Neither are the creaking competitive structures going to bring an improvement. In Scotland's case, the absence of a few key individuals meant the difference between being vaguely competitive and hopelessly outplayed.

At Old Trafford, Murrayfield and Parc des Princes, the theme was broadly similar. The gap is widening, which Tim Horan, the *Australia centre, again put down* to the elitist influence of the Super 12 competition. "It's like playing 11 Test matches in a row and the standard lifts each year," he said. "The pace is so high that when it comes to Test level, you naturally run the ball and pick up the pace of the game, which produces a lot of points."

There were moments when James Craig, the so-called great white hope on the wing, must have wished that the ground could have swallowed him up and others and that left Gregor Townsend — who should audition for the job of Tiller girl, so great was his urge to kick high — wanting to erase his 26th international appearance from his memory. Even a shoveller of the ball at fly half would at least service *Scotland's threequarters, of* whom Alan Tait showed the right penetration.

Of course, it is Scotland's prerogative to fail miserably before Christmas and cause eyebrows to raise in the new year. The question is, do Scotland aspire to be the best, or do they settle for second-nation status?

FRANCOIS MORI

Andrews, the South Africa lock, is head and shoulders above the rest during the defeat of France

French doors thrown open by South African stampede

France	10
South Africa	52

FROM BARNEY SPENDER IN PARIS

THE Parc des Princes, which gives way to the new Stade de France as the headquarters of French rugby, has seen many great matches since France first entertained Scotland there in 1973, but it is doubtful, even in the halcyon days of Rives, Blanco and Sella, that it ever saw a performance quite as dazzling as the one that South Africa reserved for the farewell to the ground on Saturday.

The world champions, who won the first international 36-32 the week before in Lyons, clinched the two-match series with a mesmerising display of fluid, breathtaking rugby far removed from the unimaginative *stuff that they threw at the British Isles* and the All Blacks earlier this year.

They ran in seven tries, four of them by Pieter Rossouw, the left wing, and won over a notoriously partisan crowd to the extent that, when Henry Honiball went over for the final time, each pass in a glorious build-up was greeted with a string of loud *olés*. When Paddy O'Brien, the referee, blew the final whistle, the crowd *stood as one to applaud the Springboks'* lap of honour.

Pierre Villepreux, the France assistant coach, reckoned it was the best South Africa performance in living memory and Thierry Lacroix, the fly half, spoke of the shame of bidding farewell to the Parc with a record defeat. "I was not proud to be French today. It hurt so much I actually cried at the end of the game," he said. Nick Mallett, the South Africa coach, said: "Please don't expect to see that every week."

Everything went right for the Springboks. The front five squeezed the life out of the French and the back row overshadowed their opponents to such an extent that Laurent Cabannes was substituted at half-time. Behind the scrum, Werner Swanepoel looked confident as he tried to fill the boots of Joost van der *Westhuizen, who tore a groin muscle* in Lyons, and Honiball continued to torment Lacroix.

The fun started in the opening minute, when André Snyman capitalised on a searing counter-attack by Percy Montgomery and sliced through the France midfield. Fifteen minutes later, Rassie Erasmus, the vigorous young flanker, intercepted a woeful pass from Dal *Maso and* charged the length of the field before offloading to Rossouw.

Tremendous pressure in the period before the break brought further tries in quick succession for Gary Teichmann and Rossouw and the match was all but over at 28-3 at half-time. Any thoughts the French may have had of a comeback were quickly forgotten as Rossouw, a strong, lanky runner, completed his day's work with two more tries to equal the Springbok record of four in a match, set by Chester Williams in the last *World Cup.*

France got some consolation close to the end, but the standing ovation was due only to the Springboks. England beware.

SCORERS: France: Try: Ibanez (72min). Conversion: Lamaison. Penalty goal: Lamaison (10). South Africa: Tries: Snyman (1), Rossouw 4 (15, 35, 43, 55), Teichmann (33), Honiball (80). Conversions: Honiball 7. Penalty goal: Honiball (71).

SCORING SEQUENCE (France first): 0-7, 3-7, 3-14, 3-21, 3-28 (half-time), 3-35, 3-42, 3-45, 10-45, 10-52.

FRANCE: J-L Sadourny; D Venditti (rep: L Leflamand, 47min), S Glas, C Lamaison, P Saint-André (captain; rep: D Casadei, 78); T Lacroix, F Galthié (rep: J Cazalbou, 54; rep: D Aucagne, 71); C Califano, M dal Maso (rep: R Ibanez, 15-21, 64), F Tournaire, O Brouzet, O Merle, P Benetton, L Cabannes (rep: F Pelous, 40), A Benazzi.

SOUTH AFRICA: P Montgomery; J Small, A Snyman, R Muir, P Rossouw (rep: J de Beer, 80); H Honiball, W Swanepoel; O du Randt, J Dalton, A Garvey, M Andrews, K Otto, J Erasmus (rep: A Aitken, 47), A Venter, G Teichmann (captain).

Referee: P O'Brien (New Zealand).

Newbury gain handsome victory

London Welsh	17
Newbury	33

BY GERALD DAVIES

THIS was a turn up for the book. *London Welsh are riding* high at the top of the first division of the Jewson National League. Until Saturday, they were unbeaten. They make no bones about their ambitions to be part of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Newbury feel the same, but, languishing in mid-table, they are not so sanguine. This, according to Keith Richardson, their coach, is not a true reflection of their ability. A *couple of hiccups at home* against Worcester and Leeds have cost them dear, but this handsome and deserved away victory, scoring four tries to two, will do a great deal to amend that.

London Welsh had gone 13 matches without losing before this defeat, their first of the season. Perhaps it is this that presented them with problems over the weekend. To maintain such a sequence can, quietly and psychologically, assume more importance than the overall objective; priorities *can get distorted, attitudes* unnecessarily tense. A team can grow nervous, especially one like London Welsh, who have been starved of success in the past decade.

On the other hand, this defeat could restore a proper perspective. Clive Griffiths, their coach, agreed with the proposition — except he would have much preferred that, if they were to lose, they had done so away from home and *not at Old Deer Park.*

At any rate, they were taken by surprise. Newbury did look better than their position suggests, which deception might also have diverted the home team's attention; they were not quite as keyed-up as they might have been.

Newbury played close to their pack in the main, while living near the offside line presented an obvious strength in their strategy. Both Davis and Wakfer were capable of playing to their strengths, with Davis scoring a couple of *tries and* a smart dropped goal.

London Welsh looked uncomfortable from an inauspicious beginning. The visiting team drove insistently to their line and was rewarded with a fine try by Osman within five minutes.

London Welsh had the better of the rest of the half, with Shaw a wonderful runner from full back, but, in ignoring penalty chances at goal to run the ball instead, they made matters difficult for themselves.

Giraud did get a try for Welsh, but it took them 20 minutes to do so, briefly taking the lead before Grecian kicked two penalties and Davis kicked his dropped goal to give Newbury the half-time lead. Raymond had kicked a penalty for London Welsh.

For all their brave attempts, which have brought them so much success this season, London Welsh got nowhere against the more direct methods of Newbury. Tries by Davis and Johnson extended the visiting team's lead and if the Welsh did manage a penalty try, it was Newbury who had the last word, when Davis, charging down a kick, got the final score.

LONDON WELSH: Tries: Giraud (23min), penalty try (79). Conversions: Raymond, Dawes. Penalty goal: Raymond (35). Newbury: Tries: T Osman (4), Davis 2 (65, 84), Johnson (70). Conversions: Grecian 2. Penalty goals: Grecian 2 (30, 40). Dropped goal: Davis (33).

SCORING SEQUENCE (London Welsh first): 0-5, 7-5, 7-8, 7-11, 10-11, 10-14 (half-time), 10-21, 10-26, 17-26, 17-33.

LONDON WELSH: P Shaw; J Reynolds, M Dawes, S Roskell, M Giraud; C Raymond (rep: R Roberts, 72min), D Edwards; S Emms (rep: R Thomas, 55), A Tucker, G Holmes, M Langley (rep: D Ruffell, 49), A Johansen, G Peacock (rep: D Muckalt, 49), L Jones, R Phillips

NEWBURY: N Grecian; B Johnson, R Osman, T Osman, T Holloway; M Davis, B Wakfer; S Stewart, J Brammer (rep: N James, 9), N Collins, C Hall, A Duke, J Kingdon, A Dawling, C Davies.

Referee: S Leyshon (Bristol).

Worcester revelling in wealth of opportunity

Reading	15
Worcester	62

BY MICHAEL AYLWIN

THE fixture between two of the leading teams in the Jewson National League first division this may have been, but the *yawning gap* in *the* standards of living that separate rugby's *nouveau riche* from those less affluent was painfully apparent on Saturday as Worcester ran ten tries past a seemingly disinterested Reading team.

Reading recently lost the *support* of *their sponsor, who* had been investing £110,000 a season in the club, and, after an impressive start to the campaign, they have now slumped to their third consecutive league defeat.

Worcester punished the home team's apathy with the precision and ruthlessness of the wealthy capitalist. Mistakes were seized upon mercilessly and the consequent avalanche of tries, bearing in mind Reading's pedigree, bordered on the unbelievable.

Victory took Worcester, temporarily at least, to pole *position in the race for promotion* into the Allied Dunbar Premiership. On this evidence, they seem to have the ammunition to succeed. They boast 12 full-time professionals, many with first-class experience, a director of rugby called Les Cusworth and the *substantial backing of* Cecil Duckworth and a £1.3 million National Lottery grant.

On the field, such affluence translates into a muscular and athletic pack of forwards that works in dynamic concert with a back division of genuine pace and efficiency.

SCORERS: Reading: Tries: penalty try (67min), Ayres (73). Conversion: Dance. Penalty goal: Dance (25). Worcester: Tries: Hughes 2 (2, 47), Lloyd (19), Ball 2 (27, 31), Holford 2 (34, 40), Hilton-Jones (49), Jenner (71), Linnett (79). Conversions: Le Bas 3, Smith 3.

SCORING SEQUENCE (Reading first): 0-5, 0-12, 3-12, 3-17, 3-24, 3-31, 3-36 (half-time), 3-43, 3-50, 10-50, 10-57, 15-57, 15-62

READING: J Dance; A Clark, L Fanning, D Barrett, B Rowland; J Costelo, B Ayres; P *Gutteridge (rep: S Stephenson, 66min)*, J Harris, G Anstead, R Dow, D Pratt (rep: R Till, 54), P Ager, A Metcalfe, G Sparks.

WORCESTER: T Smith; P Holford, D Hughes, R Tomlinson, S Morris (rep: F Powell, 8); R Le Bas (rep: G Harwood, 41), B Fenley; M Linnett, D Ball, P Mitchell, C Raymond, S Lloyd, G Clark (rep: J Jenner, 66), C Scott, R Hilton-Jones.

Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).

Stapleton and Swift lead Athletic romp

Bedford Athletic	57
Wolverhampton	7

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

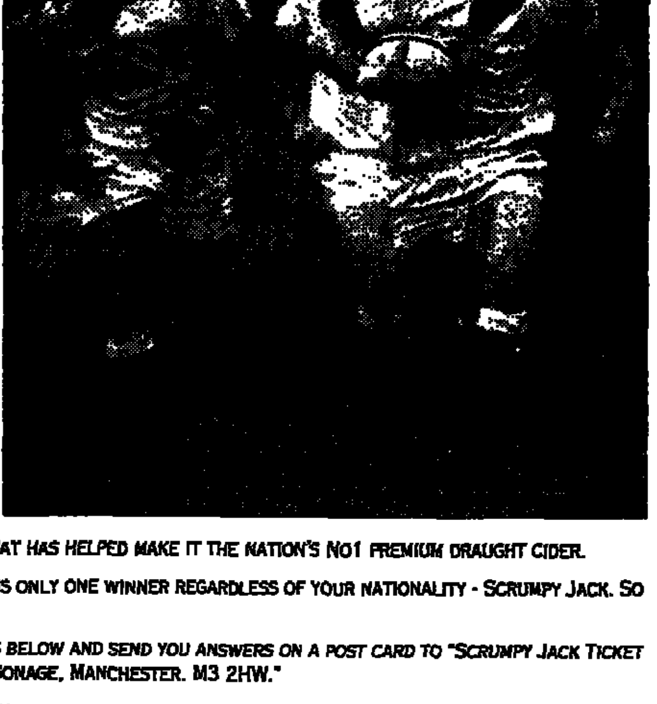
PLAYERS surplus to Frank Warren's professional requirements moving club from down-town Bedford seemed a *logical reason for Bedford* Athletic's unbeaten advance in Midlands II this season and their 173-0 pasting of Oxford Harlequins in the third round of the NPI Cup, but, as Wolverhampton found in this fourth-round tie at Putnoe Wood on Saturday, few conclusions *could be further from* the truth.

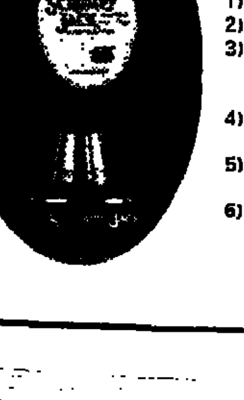
Yes, "the Ath" do have in their ranks a number of players once on Bedford's books, but only Ian Skingsley, the club captain, who is injured at present anyway, was near to being a regular in the club's *national league side* when the money men moved in and it was a recruit from one of the town's more junior outfits, Darren Stapleton, aided by the efforts of a life-long "Athlete", Mike Swift, who made the biggest impression in a match of non-stop action *and high skill.*

Wolverhampton were unlucky to find Stapleton and Swift on top of their game for, away from set-pieces, they played with a pace and precision that belies their lowly position in Midlands I, but Stapleton, armed with a *scrum half's hands and pace* to complement his all-round expertise as a hooker, was at breakdowns virtually before they occurred and made decisive ground or openings with seemingly every touch.

A try wide on the left by Simon Middleton and one by *John Egan, directly from the* scrummage caused by a poor restart, each converted by Ashley Tapper, an Oxford Blue in 1991, swiftly gave Athletic the control that their fluid play thrives on.

Paul Godsall, Tapper and Middleton added to the tally before *half-time, Stapleton,* Mike Curry, Swift and Tommy Gray did so afterwards and an interception score by Tony Kemp immediately after the break provided Wolverhampton with their only reward.





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Spirited and skilful performance reduces all-conquering All Blacks to ranks of mere mortals

England emerge from the shadows

England 8
New Zealand 25

By David Hands
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF THE first meeting between England and New Zealand proved an appetising dish, the second will be positively mouthwatering. It is no disrespect to the holders of the World Cup, South Africa, to suggest that a clear fortnight of build-up to Twickenham on December 6, when the All Blacks conclude their tour, would, after the tumult of Old Trafford on Saturday, have the entire game in England abuzz.

Instead, England must prepare for the game on Saturday against the Springboks, who arrived yesterday in triumph from France, without Martin Johnson, the man who led the British Isles to a series win in South Africa, while Wales take their turn in trying to hold New Zealand at Wembley. At least we will know how far England can raise their game after the next fortnight, given that they have already elevated their standards beyond belief in the brief span between drawing with Australia last week and losing to New Zealand on Saturday.

ENGLAND'S AUTUMN CHALLENGE

The trap into which Clive Woodward will not allow his players to fall is that of thinking that defeat by 17 points was some kind of a victory. England played a game of heart-warming passion — meat and drink to the crowd of 55,243, who made the Rugby Football Union's venture into the North West for the Lloyds/TSB international such a success — and with no little skill. Only once, though, could they break New Zealand down. Where they did succeed was in making the All Blacks look, on occasions, distinctly ordinary and they will build on that knowledge.

So will New Zealand. John Hart, their coach, suggested that their errors played England into the game, but mistakes seldom accrue unless players are under pressure — and the All Blacks were. Part of their method is the mythology that surrounds them and England's young team have seen, at first hand, that they can be as human as the next player: that, if the first-time tackles are made, if the set-pieces hold, if the ball is hunted in numbers, then opportunities arise.

These were areas of substantial improvement after the grey draw with Australia and it will have hurt Woodward that he had to suspend Johnson after offering tributes to the work done by the lock and his Leicester colleagues, Richard Cockerill and Darren Garforth, in shoring up the set-pieces. A solid scrum allowed Bracken and his back row precious freedom and the confidence derived from that could be seen in the closing minutes as England rampaged close to the New Zealand line.

All this on a day when Mike Catt fired three penalty attempts, all within 20 metres of the posts, wide or at the woodwork. It is to his credit, then, that he shook that off and created the try that England did score midway through the second half. His delightful diagonal kick was seized by Austin Healey and his pass infield fell to Phil de Glanville, a thoroughly deserving try-scorer.

It is a moot point whether one regards England's policy over penalties as a success. Kickable goals were turned into lineouts in the New Zealand 22 in pursuit of the tries that England seek so desperately, and that was before Catt had proved that he was having an off-day. Woodward has great belief in his lineout as an attacking platform, but the fact remains that, against the all-enveloping black blanket, it procured no points. The strategy, though, reflects a positive attitude, as did the introduction for the second half of Back and, later, Healey in an attempt to generate more pace.

Yet everything that England had said about New Zealand's ability to punish mistakes came true: 12 points in a five-minute spell during the first quarter effectively decided the game. Catt's diagonal was plucked out of the air by Jonah Lomu, who beat his way past David Rees and De Glanville, established the ruck and Wilson plucked out Zinzan Brooke's skip pass to send Jones to the line. The other lock, Robin Brooke, then returned the compliment to Wilson after England's defence had been dragged to one side of the field.

Only briefly could New Zealand claim to have imposed their own tempo on the game. They might have received a penalty try as their forwards made England suffer on their own line, though it was in that same period that Randell scored from a five-metre scrum. At 3-22, England were looking down the barrel of a substantial defeat, but their own defence held firm, as did their self-belief.

They carried the game to their opponents and, when a young player like Rees can enthuse so wholeheartedly about the pleasures of confronting Lomu, the All Black cloud may truly have a silver lining.

MARC ASPLAND

Back, the England replacement flanker, struggles to contain the marauding Lomu at Old Trafford on Saturday

SCORERS: England: Try: De Glanville (64min). Penalty goal: Catt (35). New Zealand: Tries: Jones (13), Wilson (18), Randell (62). Conversions: Mehrtens 2. Penalty goals: Mehrtens 2 (37, 67).

SCORING SEQUENCE (England first): 0-7, 0-12, 3-12, 3-15 (half-time), 3-22, 8-22, 8-25.

ENGLAND: M B Perry (Bath); D Rees (Sale), W J H Greenwood (Leicester), P R de Glanville (Bath), A A Adebayo (Bath; rep: A S Healey, Leicester, 56min); M J Catt (Bath), K P P Bracken (Saracens); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), G S Archer (Newcastle), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), R A Hill (Saracens), A J Diprose (Saracens; rep: N A Back, Leicester, 41).

NEW ZEALAND: C M Cullen (Manawatu); J W Wilson (Otago; rep: J P Preston, Wellington, 82), F E Bunce (North Harbour), A Ieremia (Wellington; rep: S J McLeod, Waikato, 60), J T Lomu (Counties); A P Mehrtens (Canterbury), J W Marshall (Canterbury, captain); C W Dowd (Auckland), N J Hewitt (Southland), O M Brown (Auckland), I D Jones (North Harbour), R W Brooke (Auckland), T C Randell (Otago), J A Kronfeld (Otago), Z V Brooke (Auckland; rep: A F Blowers, Auckland, 53).

Referee: P Marshall (Australia).

MATCH FACTS: HOW THE PLAY UNFOLDED

LINEOUTS

	Award	E22	EH	AH	A22	Won	Run	Kick	Drive	Lost	Void
England	15	5	1	6	3	13	3	–	10	1	2
New Zealand	16	4	8	4	–	13	5	–	8	1	3

Lineouts: 6 Archer, Jones; 4 Johnson, R Brooke; 3 Randell; 1 Dallaglio, Diprose; other not decisive.
Void: 4 penalties to New Zealand, 1 knock on (Blowers)

SCRUMS

	Award	E22	EH	AH	A22	Run	Kick	Drive	Void
England	13	1	3	6	3	5	2	6	–
New Zealand	11	3	3	4	1	4	2	4	1

Reason: England: 9 knock on; 2 held up; 1 ball to ground; 1 elected scrum.
New Zealand: 5 knock on; 2 ball to ground; 2 elected scrum; 1 forward pass; 1 held up.

PENALTIES

	Award	E22	EH	AH	A22	Run	Touch	3pts	Miss
England	15	2	3	5	5	3	6	1	3
New Zealand	13	4	5	4	–	–	5	2	1

Conceded: England: 4 offside; 3 pushing; 2 not releasing; 2 dangerous play; 1 hands on floor; 1 through at the lineout. New Zealand: 6 offside; 5 over the top; 2 dangerous play; 1 not releasing; 1 hands on floor.

KICKING RECORD

	Cons		Pens		Total		
	Atts	Suc	Atts	Suc	Atts	Suc	%
M Catt	1	–	4	1	5	1	20
A Mehrtens	3	2	3	2	6	4	67

Catt: one out of five

Mehrtens: four out of six

Lomu supplies antidote to base moments

Rob Hughes rejoices in the return of a colossus to the international stage

If the comeback of Jonah Lomu is not yet up to speed, heaven help England when, as the All Blacks management promises, he returns fitter, faster and stronger for the second international on Saturday week.

Lomu's magnetic power, drawing four of England's finest, opened up the Old Trafford field for the first try in the thirteenth minute, a score from which England did not recover. It doesn't take a student of the game, merely of life, to appreciate the extraordinary achievement of the man, not in sporting terms alone, but as an example of human triumph after a year confronting gruelling treatment for a kidney disease.

The cure attacks a man's mental as well as physical state and, back in Auckland, a hemisphere away, Lomu's Tongan parents, Semisi and Hepi, watched their convalescent son come back into the world's television eye. To us, he is a colossus; to them, he is a baby, thrilled to bits to run on the left wing where Ryan Giggs, Jonah's own hero, can be so swift and hypnotic.

Sport is such a compelling cameo of life that the international on Saturday stripped Lomu down to the bare nerve before fulfilling him. Twice, his opponent, David Rees, rushed him with audacious courage; twice, Lomu spilled the ball. The crowed roared, Lomu smiled. He is 22, no longer the feel-nothing, fear-nothing teenager whose 6ft 5in, 18st 8lb hulk terrorised rugby's hard men.

'His smile was as gentle as his force was harsh'

Rees, genuinely a student of graphic design in Manchester, conceded five stones but threw himself into tackles with the relish of a warrior. Rees's temerity was far more rousing than Martin Johnson's cowardly punch, or the two shaven-headed hookers doing to the haka what pitbulls do to lamposts. "It was a tremendous experience, playing against him," Rees said. "He [Lomu] is such a powerful player. I love my tackling, I thoroughly enjoyed it and it was nice to see the ball spill, wonderful to hear the crowd."

The thirteenth minute brought pain, not pleasure. Lomu was tested over his head by Mike Catt's kick, but caught the ball, turned and skipped past Rees with a hint of the acceleration that once clocked 10.8sec for 100 metres. Rees, and then Phil de Glanville, who was brushed aside with a hand in the chest, were dabs of defiance to Lomu on the move; two more tackles came in, eventually grounding the big man. But the ball was free, England were stretched, and Jones scored in the far corner.

Lomu's smile was as gentle as his force was harsh. His violence in fending off men was the acceptable side of sport, a world away from the street killers who, in his youth decapitated Jonah's uncle and cut the wrists of a cousin. And when, in the second half, he ran with Dallaglio and Johnson clinging like lead weights, hauling their combined 35 stones with him, the ball like a pebble in his massive hand, the mightiest All Black looked anything but a man still taking his medicine.

"It's not about size," he said admiring Rees's challenges, "it's about heart." Indeed, it is. It was Tania, his young wife, who gave him the heart to come back when the doctors were unsure and, together with Christian Cullen, whose surges uplift the soul, and Jeff Wilson, quicksilver on the right, there could never have been such a counter-attacking force in rugby.

Their pace and handling is priceless and, for all the trumpeting of England's bold spirit, it is a fact that New Zealand won by their greatest margin on English turf. Lomu, content and ready for the next match, soon retreated to his Walkman. John Hart, his coach, spoke of working to eradicate the All Black errors, and working Jonah Lomu to regain all that was taken from him. "Delighted with his start," the coach said, "but you're going to see some improvement in the next couple of weeks."

As he spoke, and the All Blacks filed past, almost sheepish at not squashing England, the strident strains of triumphalism resounded around Old Trafford. It had been an eye-opening, uplifting experiment, taking rugby north. This is part of our Land of Hope, but the Glory went to New Zealand and, for reasons beyond sport, the human achievement was embodied in one very big convalescent, by name Jonah Lomu.

Johnson banned for Springboks match

By David Hands

MARTIN JOHNSON, who led the British Isles to a series victory over South Africa during the summer, will miss England's meeting with the Springboks at Twickenham on Saturday after being suspended by his own management. Johnson was given a one-match ban after punching Justin Marshall, the New Zealand captain, in the seventh minute of the international at Old Trafford.

John Hart, the All Blacks coach, was incensed by what he described as an "act of thuggery" by Johnson. Both team managements discussed the incident on Saturday night, watched video evidence and agreed on the punishment. It will leave Johnson free to play in the second meeting with New Zealand, at Twickenham on December 6.

New Zealand would have cited Johnson for the offence, which carries a 30-day suspension, had England chosen to take no action. "I have spoken to Martin, who has fully accepted responsibility ... and he will be making a full apology to Justin Marshall," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said yesterday. "I would like to add my own words of regret over this incident, which has no place in English or international rugby."

Johnson has been involved in punching incidents before, one of which cost his team a try against Argentina last season, and another against Wales. He was part of a Lions team that set outstanding standards of discipline in South Africa, but the new England management is keen to demonstrate that no individual is above the game's laws.

At one stage, the New Zealand management feared Marshall's jaw might have been broken and the scrum half's hearing was disturbed for much of the game.

"I had made a tackle, the ball became available and I had my back turned to England when I received a blow on the head," Marshall said. There was no reaction from the other players or the match officials and Marshall was able to play on.

Hart said: "I take a very strong stand on dirty play and we have had very few incidents during my two years as coach to this group." Roger Uttley, the England manager, said: "These guys are role models for youngsters and they know that they have high standards to live up to."

England will announce their team to play South Africa on Wednesday, after the match in Bristol tomorrow between an English Rugby Partnership XV and the All Blacks, but it is probable that Johnson's place will go to Danny Grewcock.

Cultural clash fuels head-on confrontation

David Hands examines New Zealand's complaints at a lack of respect shown during their traditional haka

The haka may well form part of New Zealand's cultural heritage, but, given the confrontational element it exudes, it is no surprise when those on the receiving end proffer a challenge of their own. John Hart, the All Blacks coach, expressed his surprise at England's "disrespectful" attitude to the haka at Old Trafford, but it was not the first time teams have chosen their own reaction to the ritual, chanting dance that precedes every New Zealand match.

It needs only a short memory to recall New Zealanders who have danced their way into stolid opponents' faces without criticism from their own management. On Saturday, Richard Cockerill and Norman Hewitt, the hookers, chose to go nose-to-nose, which occasioned a word of caution from Peter Marshall, the referee, after a push here and there. Disrespect was not intended.

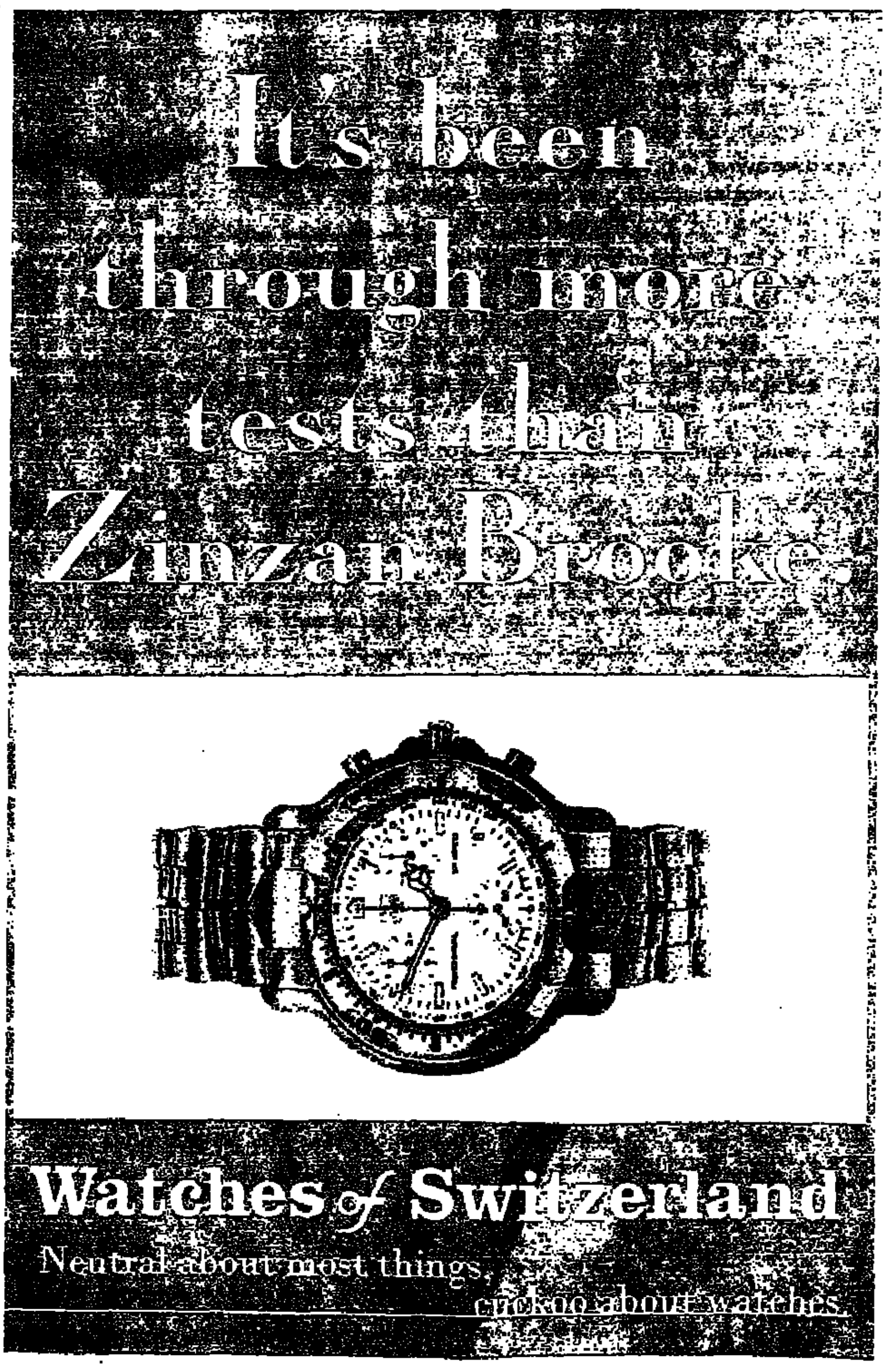
There is no law that governs what teams facing the haka should do. Tradition demands that they line up on halfway while the All Blacks fling down their challenge, as do the South Sea islanders from Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa: "All we ask is that they respect our culture," Hart said, but the haka is also, in its way, a psychological weapon and few would complain if England chose, in Australasian parlance, to "front up".

"It's not meant to be intimidating," Justin Marshall, the All Blacks captain on Saturday, said, "it's just part of our culture, something we do." Clearly, he has never been faced by the substantial figure of Jonah Lomu or Va'aiga Tuigamala in full cry during the haka, which concludes with a leap into the air that, performed by a 6ft 5in player, can have at the least an unsettling effect.

Cockerill and Hewitt, the opposing hookers, stand nose to nose

Willie Anderson's Ireland team of 1989 linked arms and made a gradual advance on Wayne Shelford's team during the haka at Lansdowne Road; David Campese, during the World Cup semi-final at the same ground in 1991 between Australia and New Zealand, took himself off to the far end of the ground and kicked a ball around while the challenge was roared out. Others have retreated to their own 22 to observe at a distance — and, if that is their wish, who should blame them?

The All Blacks were also faintly surprised at England's return to the pitch at the end of the match, believing there to be nothing worth celebrating in defeat. In fact, it was the home side's tribute to the crowd, a gesture of thanks to Manchester and the North West for giving both teams so memorable a day. "The atmosphere was brilliant," Clive Woodward, the England coach, said. "We are looking forward to returning to Twickenham, it's our home ground, but I would love to see Twickenham as Old Trafford was."



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O'Neill's touchline theatricals steal show

LEICESTER CITY 0
BOLTON WANDERERS 0

By Keith Pike

IT WAS a performance of vivid imagination and admirable stamina, an afternoon on which the passion of the British game left onlookers breathless. The match? Sterile and predictable. Martin O'Neill? Worth the admission money on his own.

To see the Leicester City manager cavorting on the touchline, arms whirling like some demented traffic cop, and to hear his voice bellowing above the din was to witness the frustrations of football management reach such an intensity that you feared for his sanity. Tackling imaginary opponents, taking imaginary shots and pursuing a linesman 20 yards while waving an imaginary flag, O'Neill worked himself into a real enough lather.

Colin Todd was clearly incensed, too, and when both managers are in finger-wagging mode it is plain that something is amiss. Graham Barber and his assistants indeed had an undistinguished match, spotting everything trivial but missing too many moments that mattered, including a valid penalty appeal by Leicester three minutes from time, when Whitlow handled Wilson's cross, and a crude, studs-up challenge on Thompson by Lennon that went unpunished.

O'Neill admitted that, by the end, he had "lost the plot". His volatility by now replaced with that dazzling smile and infectious good humour, he contented himself with saying that "it was not one of Graham's best games". But then his real concern, of course, is not with officials at all. Leicester may be sixth in the FA Carling Premiership, their supporters hoping for another European adventure, but O'Neill knows that survival remains the priority and is by no means certain.

Plenty of people scoffed last season, too, when O'Neill, his team in mid-table and focused on Wembley, suggested that relegation was a threat, yet it was only a late goal in their penultimate league match that guaranteed their safety. This game on Saturday confirmed that Leicester, again, have neither the pace nor the spontaneity needed to unlock a disciplined defence; that there is really little to choose between them and sides such as Bolton, who are favourites to figure in the relegation scrap.

"I am long enough in the Premiership to know that there is only Manchester United and Arsenal, and a few of the big sides, who can actually take their eye off the ball for a week or two and know that they will get it right, because they have loads of experience and, inevitably, very good players," O'Neill conceded. "We can't treat any team lightly, even the likes of Bolton, who are near the bottom of the league." The result at Anfield proved that he would "again have to keep an eye on the foot of the table".

With £6 million to spend, O'Neill is desperate to add some attacking brio to a team high on work-rate, low on inspiration. Had Marshall or Izzet converted either of the two clear-cut chances that Leicester created, victory would merely have disguised their limitations: had Blake, the perennial waster of opportunities, not hit the side netting from eight yards, Bolton could have capped a display that rightly delighted Todd for its commitment. Either way, this was a match all too easily forgotten.

LEICESTER CITY (3-5-2): K Keller — S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh — P Kaamark, M Izzet, N Lennon, G Parker (sub: S Wilson, 63min), S Guppy — S Claridge (sub: G Fenton, 62), I Marshall
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K Branagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, M Fish, M Whitlow — J Pollock, A Thompson, P Frandsen, M Johansen (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 79) — D Holdsworth, N Blake
Referee: G Barber

Barnsley capitalise on confidence crisis afflicting Anfield

Liverpool's faith beyond belief

LIVERPOOL 0
BARNSLEY 1

By Matt Dickinson

ONE day, Liverpool will really surprise everyone and start looking like champions. Until then — and that moment seems further away than ever — results like this will shock very few, least of all those dispirited souls on Merseyside.

Certainly the supporters who trudged disconsolately out of Anfield on Saturday, pausing briefly to jeer their team from the pitch, greeted this defeat exactly as they did the news that Manchester United were rampaging further ahead at the top of the FA Carling Premiership — with a shrug of resignation. There was a novelty value about Barnsley taking the lead after 35 minutes, but by the end it had given way to a collective sense of impending doom. "We were lucky," Danny Wilson, the Barnsley manager, said, but he was being kind.

Asked in the week to predict a one-sided rout, one member of the Liverpool camp claimed: "You never know with us." At least he was being honest, but if those within the confines of Anfield are not confident of beating a stricken team languishing at the foot of the table, they can hardly expect anyone else to have faith.

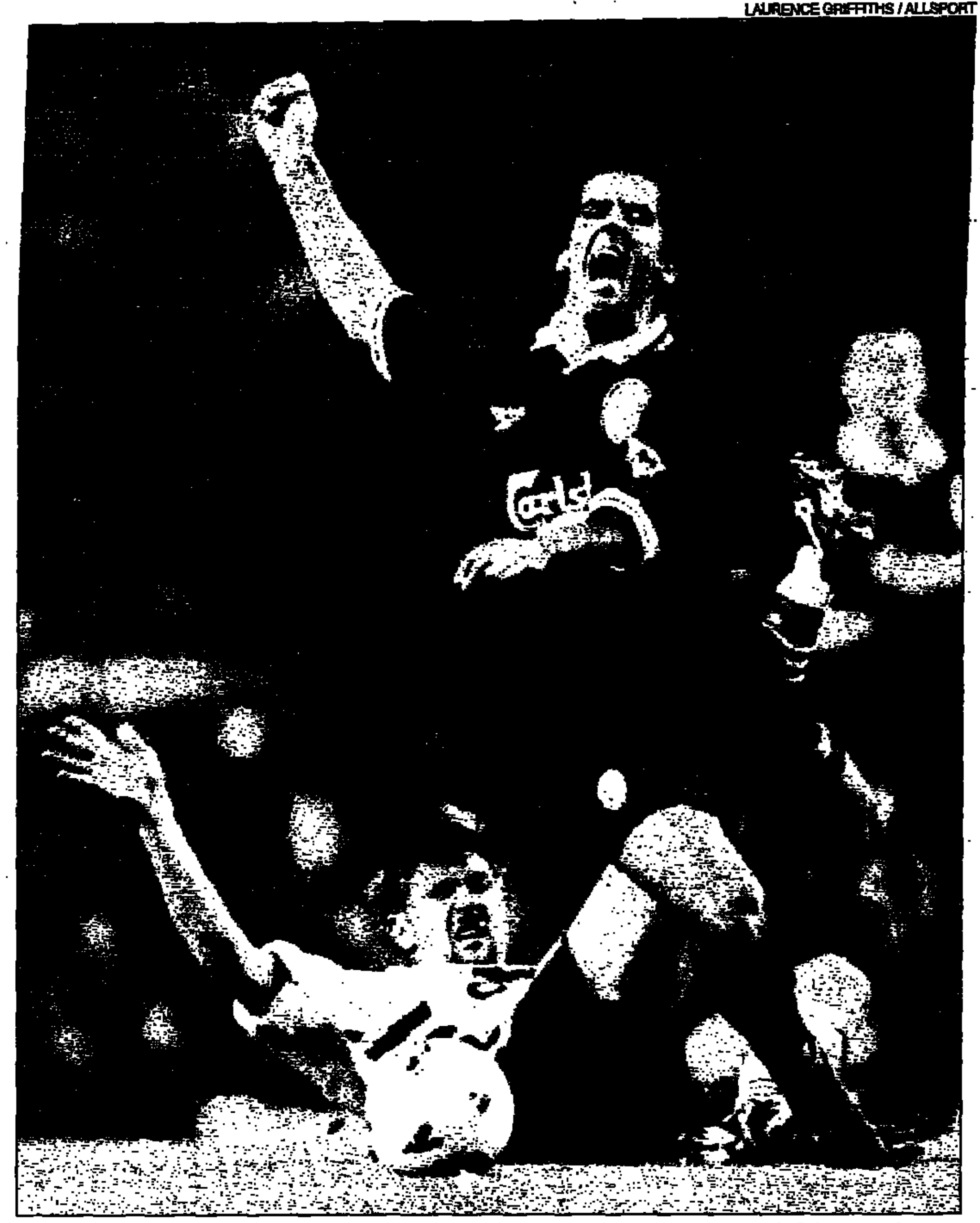
"Where do you start?" Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, pondered when asked to explain the defeat. He was not the only one at a loss. The problems besetting his team have gone beyond the realm of regular football analysis and into complex psychology.

How else can one start to fathom how they lost to a Barnsley team who played well, if only by their own standards, and who had been beaten in their last five FA Carling Premiership games away from home and conceded 40 goals at an average of almost three per match this season?

The absence of Robbie Fowler and Paul Ince, both suspended, was little excuse. While Fowler would surely not have squandered as many chances as Karlheinz Riedle, and Patrik Berger and Oyvind Leonhardsen, combined, could not compensate for the loss of Ince's dynamism, this defeat went deeper than a couple of absent players. It was down to a loss of will.

It would have been refreshing, at least, to have seen a Liverpool player losing his temper, grabbing the game by the scruff of the neck and trying to alter the destiny of the afternoon. Yet no one appeared capable of it and one wonders whether they ever will. "It was the game we should have won," Evans said, but they never deserved to, despite the number of opportunities that came their way. Riedle, who spent most of the afternoon falling over, was the worst culprit, shooting over the crossbar when well-placed in the first half and then straight at Leese, who led a charmed life in the Barnsley goal, in the second.

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT



A run by Riedle, who scorned several chances for Liverpool, is brought to a painful conclusion

Even the Barnsley winner was self-inflicted by Liverpool. David James, with an excellent save, did well to force Liddell wide, but he squared the ball back towards the penalty spot, where it hit the shin of Berger, for whom nothing went right all afternoon, and fell straight into Ward's path for a simple finish. It was a goal the Barnsley striker deserved for an afternoon of tireless endeavour after a month on the sidelines with viral meningitis.

For Wilson, whose outburst after their defeat at Southampton had clearly shaken life into his side, this was a triumph to be savoured, even if it was largely aided by Liverpool's inept display. "The players knew their last performance would not be tolerated and today they showed how professional they are," he said. None more so than Peter Markstedt, the centre half, who made a towering debut after £825,000 transfer from Sweden.

With Adrian Moses following Steve McManaman's every move, Liverpool laboured to break down Barnsley's defence and it was not until the appearance of Danny Murphy, with less than half an hour to go, that they really began to find openings. The England Under-21 international, signed from Crewe Alexandra in the summer, has had to be patient, making just four appearances before Saturday, but he deserves to retain his place, on this showing.

"We're staying oop," the travelling supporters sang and they will face Leeds United next week with their confidence revived and suddenly feeling as if this is a campaign to be relished. For Liverpool, though, who now face Arsenal at Highbury and then Manchester United at home, time is running out. At least with such daunting opponents they should have little trouble motivating themselves, but their failure to do so against Barnsley on Saturday will haunt them for months to come.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D James — J McAteer, S T Kvarme, D Matteo, S I Bjornebye (sub: D Murphy, 65min) — S McManaman, J Redknapp, P Berger, O Leonhardsen — M Owen, K Riedle
BARNSLEY (4-4-2): L Leese — N Eaden, A de Zeeuw, P Markstedt, D Barnard — M Bullock, E Tinkler, N Redfearn, A Moses — A Liddell (sub: M Appleby, 68), A Ward (sub: J Hendrie, 86).
Referee: J Winter.

Strachan's week ends on lowest of notes

DERBY COUNTY 3
COVENTRY CITY 1

By Richard Hobson

WHEN Harold Wilson talked about a week being a long time in politics, he meant that fortunes can alter violently within a relatively short period. There is a more pessimistic way of interpreting this. An awful lot can go wrong in seven days, as Gordon Strachan, the Coventry City manager, has discovered.

Open his diary. Last Monday, he lost Roger Spry, the Coventry fitness coach, to FC Porto. Elimination from the Coca-Cola Cup followed at Highbury on Tuesday and, three days later Alex Miller, his assistant manager, left to take charge of Aberdeen. As if defeat to Derby County provided insufficient woe on Saturday, then his comments about David Elleray, the referee, may also prompt a disrepute charge from the Football Association.

Strachan went into the referee's room at half-time to ask about a possible handball in the build-up to the third Derby goal. "I was gobsmacked by his reply," Strachan said. "He made a flippant remark and it must have astonished him, too, because he then locked the door and tried to retract what he said. I have had referees lock me out before, but never in.

"It must be time for full-time referees. I would love to be a part-time manager as well as an accountant and do it as a hobby at the weekend. Referees can be flippant because it is a hobby to them. It is a vehicle to be a celebrity." As he left the press conference, Strachan said of Elleray, a housemaster at Harrow School: "He can go back and tell the schoolchildren he had a good laugh at the weekend." Elleray declined to comment and, according to a Derby steward, was escorted from the ground to his car via a side exit.

Somehow, the heavy mist seemed an appropriate backdrop to a game sprinkled with menace. Nine players were booked for foul tackles, the most in an FA Carling Premiership fixture since April, yet Elleray set his standard in taking the name of Hall for clattering into Kozluk and remained consistent. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, resembled a wise owl rather than a bald eagle when he said that at least Elleray had made decisions rather than abdicating his duty.

Then again, Smith could afford to be in a lighter mood than his counterpart. Victory lifted his side into fifth place — and Derby are not there by accident. Baiano and Eranio have added quality to a workmanlike bunch, and Wanchope is striking the fear of God into defenders at present.

Baiano scored his ninth league goal of the season when he punished a poor clearing header by Breen with a left-foot shot after two minutes and Eranio converted a penalty in the 28th minute after Baiano had been bundled over by Burrows. Ten minutes later, Baiano slipped a pass through a square defence and Wanchope lifted it over the advancing Ogrizovic.

Evidence from Elland Road a fortnight earlier suggested that Derby are at their most vulnerable when three goals ahead. Huckerby, shooting under Poom in the seventieth minute, posed problems, especially after Laursen was injured in a challenge by McAllister, but, while Derby lost their shape and poise at the back, they still had too much in hand.

DERBY COUNTY (3-4-1-2): M Poom — J Laursen (sub: D Powell, 68min), G Rowett, C Daily — R Kozluk, S Eranio, L Carsley, C Powell — F Baiano (sub: J Hunt, 87) — P Wanchope, D Sturridge
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — R Nilsson, R Shaw, G Breen, D Burrows — P Telfer, G McAllister, P Williams (sub: W Boland, 58), M Hall — S Haworth (sub: D Huckerby, 34), D Dublin.
Referee: D Elleray.

Newcastle find Barnes the finished article

NEWCASTLE UNITED 2
SOUTHAMPTON 1

By Ivo Tennant

THE encyclopaedic knowledge of football that Kenny Dalglish possesses is such that he had not even a momentary doubt about asking John Barnes to fulfil, in his 35th year, the most exacting of all roles. For three successive matches, the former Liverpool captain has carried Newcastle United's attack and proved a worthy heir to a noble tradition.

The Newcastle manager, troubled by injuries to Shearer, Asprilla and Rush, had recalled a match in the mid-1980s in which Barnes played brilliantly as a centre forward for Watford. Their opponents that day were Liverpool and Dalglish had seen enough. Here was a winger who was potentially an exceptional footballer and a versatile one, too.

On Saturday, with Tomasson positioned just behind him and Gillespie providing any number of mesmerising crosses, Barnes scored twice. The first was, for someone of his ability, a straightforward, left-foot shot when the ball rebounded fortuitously off a post, but the second was classy. It was also the match-winner.

There were 14 minutes remaining when Gillespie curled another centre in front of the Southampton central defenders. It was swerving, seemingly, too far behind Barnes, but he twisted in his jump and timed his angled header to perfection. The praise that Dalglish meted out was based on an example and an approach that he felt had been exemplary down the years.

They have known each other too long for Barnes to refer to his manager as anything so clichéd as "the gaffer". He would, he said, fill in at left back if Kenny asked him. "I am no Alan Shearer and I have not played up front for a while, although I did at times with Liverpool. I was not an out-and-out target man, but I would support Ian Rush, Peter Beardsley or John Aldridge. I also remember playing against them for Watford in a 4-3 defeat."

A month ago, Dalglish utilised Gillespie as his lone forward and the upshot was a stunning volleyed goal against Blackburn Rovers. The idea with Barnes is that he is not expected to chase passes played into space — he is too old for that — but that he will control the ball deftly until supported from midfield. Midway through the second half, he withdrew behind Tomasson, Ketsbaia taking his place in a more bludgeoning way.

Given that Asprilla is not yet deemed fit enough to be given a match for the first time since October 1, the likelihood is that Barnes will continue as the main striker against Barcelona in the European Cup Champions' League this week. Come January, which is the latest projected month for Shearer's return, he will be glad, no doubt, to fall back into midfield. Whatever, he had shown again what a performer he still is.

DAVE BRUCE / ALLSPORT

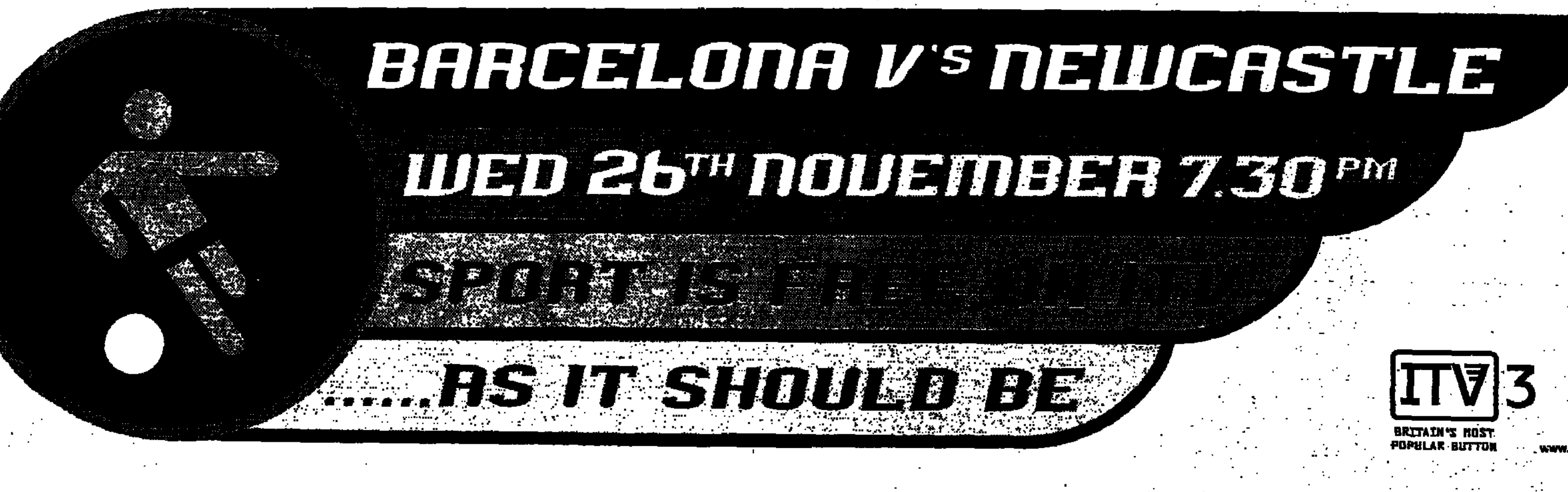
Barnes, the scorer of both Newcastle goals, beats Jones, but this effort was disallowed for offside

For Newcastle, this was a fitting farewell to Sir John Hall, who retires as their chairman at the end of the month. Nobody received a greater ovation all afternoon, not even Barnes. If Southampton appeared to have a bit part in this, it was not so at the start, when Davies scored his tenth goal in 15 matches with a purposeful run into the penalty area and a controlled finish.

He must now be worth considerably more than the £650,000 that Southampton spent to acquire him from Chesterfield in the summer. "Kevin is learning his trade and we are looking for a little bit more from him, but he will be a force at this level," David Jones, his manager, said, overlooking the fact that, with a record like this, he is already.

In one sense, Southampton were fortunate not to be beaten more easily. Lundekvam, normally the most stylish of defenders, pulled Tomasson's shirt towards the end of the first half when he was clear of his markers and converging on the penalty area. Dermot Gallagher, the referee, proved more tolerant than some of his ilk and chose not to send him off. If nothing else, Newcastle's victory was more satisfying as a consequence of having been hard-earned.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): S Hislop — S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, A Pistone — K Gillespie, R Lee, D Batty, T Ketsbaia — J D Tomasson — J Barnes
SOUTHAMPTON (4-3-1-2): P Jones — J Dodd, K Monkou, C Lundekvam, F Benali — K Richardson, C Palmer, M Oakley (sub: L Todd, 64min) — M Le Tissier (sub: A Neilson, 57) — K Davies, D Hirst (sub: S Basham, 79).
Referee: D Gallagher.



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Wednesday manager sparkles on return to the coal face

Back in his natural habitat on the touchline, Atkinson summoned some of the old magic to conjure an unlikely victory against championship-chasing Arsenal

Atkinson descends stairway to heaven

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2
ARSENAL 0

By Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

When he came down the corridor after the game, flanked by two club officials, Ron Atkinson looked like a triumphant president after an election, come to make his victory address. There was a wide, perma-grin on his face, but even so it looked as though he was just ambling towards his first press conference back in the big time. Inside, though, Mr Bojangles was dancing.

Atkinson was not born to be pushed upstairs as a director of football at Coventry City, trolling around the lower leagues and half-empty stadiums searching for cut-price players. Big Ron was made for the big time, for big matches, grand gestures and dramatic moments and, after his days in the wilderness, he got his fix at Hillsborough on Saturday.

The bitterness that had marked his departure for Aston Villa six years ago seemed to have been completely forgotten. The *Yorkshire Post* had posters up in the streets around the ground billing his first match back in charge as "The Return of the Prodigal Son". One of the fanzines welcomed back the "King of Glam" and honoured his arrival by renaming 1997 as Year Zero.

Another featured a big cartoon of him as a ventriloquist on its back page. "I shall now attempt to spend £10 million while drinking a glass of champagne," he was saying. Under his arm, the Wednesday chairman, David Richards, disguised as his dummy, mouthed the words "I love you" at his master.

And so it was that the great entertainer, one of the last of the showman managers, having masterminded the surprise 2-0 win that moved Wednesday out of the FA Carling Premiership relegation zone and cast further doubt on the durability of Arsenal's championship aspirations, took his place behind a cluster of microphones and began to perform.

Someone, forgetting the uproarious mood, forgetting that now Atkinson is back at the Yorkshire club some supporters are already convinced that the sky is the limit, opined that the situation at the bottom of the table had tightened up with Barnsley's equally surprising win at Liverpool.

Big Ron sat for a moment, sipping the tea that had been brought for him instead of the white wine he had requested. He smiled and put his finger to his lips as though he were pondering. "Man United have won haven't they," he said. There were nods of assent. "Bastards," he said. "What about Blackburn, how have they got on?" The point was taken.

On the form they showed on Saturday, in front of their biggest crowd of the season, Wednesday will not be troubling the leaders this season. Arsenal, missing Bould, Petit and Bergkamp through suspension and Anelka and Vieira because of injury, were woeful, Wright a shadow of the striker who burst out of the gates in pursuit of Cliff Bastin's record at the start of the season.

They gifted Wednesday the crucial opening goal four minutes before half-time. Grimandi, with time and space, tried to play a first-time ball across goal, but Booth ran on to it and dispatched it confidently through Seaman's legs. "We had not troubled Seaman at all for most of the first half," Atkinson said. "That was our plan, to try to get him to doze off."

The fare improved in the second half and, after a couple of scrapes, notably when Winterburn's deflected shot shaved the wrong side of a post, Wednesday finished things off with the best move of the game four minutes from the end.

Petter Rudi, the impressive, composed Norwegian midfield player, burst out of defence as Arsenal pressed for the equaliser and laid the ball out to Carbone, who had just come on as a substitute. Carbone squared the ball first time to Whittingham, who wrong-footed Seaman and placed it into the corner of the net.

Atkinson acknowledged afterwards that his first priority was to finish the season "exactly where we are tonight", out of trouble, safe in the Premiership. Saturday night was not a time for the intrusion of reality or contemplation of the long, hard winter that lies ahead. It was a time, instead, for indulging the idea of a manager with the Midas touch.

Atkinson, again, did not disappoint. He suggested that he was looking for such a high degree of commitment from his players that any who blocked a shot or a pass with their backsides would be fined. "I want to see them being hit in the face or in the cobblers," he said. "That is the level of determination I expect."

Most of the all, though, Atkinson, 58, warmed the hearts of those around him by admitting how good it was to be back, how much he had missed the day-to-day involvement that he thrives on. "I can honestly say I have never looked forward to a match as much as I looked forward to today," he said. "It could not come quickly enough. It got so bad I have been checking my drinks to see if someone has been slipping me something."

He has been back playing five-a-sides, too, he said. Only one, and his team won 5-0. Which player did he pretend to be, someone asked, knowing his fondness for being Cruyff or Maradona. "I was feeling good," Atkinson said, "so I was me."

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, J Newsome, M Pembridge — G Whittingham, P Atherton, J Magilton (sub G Hyde, 83min), P Rudi — P di Canio (sub B Carbone, 78), A Booth.
ARSENAL (3-4-2-1): D Seaman — M Keown, A Adams, G Grimandi (sub: S Marshall 50) — L Dixon, R Parlour (sub S Hughes, 37), D Platt, N Winterburn — A Mendez (sub C Wreh, 53), M Overmars — I Wright.
Referee: K Burge.

Whittingham celebrates after deceiving Seaman to score Wednesday's decisive second goal

Ferguson takes time to play his trump card

WIMBLEDON 2
MANCHESTER UNITED 5

By Brian Glanville

MANAGERS, *axiomatically*, know far more about football than mere journalists, but sometimes their decisions are bewildering.

Why, for instance, did it take so long for Alex Ferguson, of Manchester United, to put David Beckham on the field? When he did arrive in the second half, he promptly scored and was instrumental in another goal, when his shot hit Vinnie Jones to be cruelly deflected past Neil Sullivan. Probably the straw that broke the camel's back.

As for Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, who was possibly deterred from attending the post-match press conference by the baying fans still in the stadium, his decision to play Neal Ardley in central midfield and leave Robbie Earle and the promising new Norwegian, Staale Solbakken, on the bench until so late was equally puzzling. Ardley scored a well-taken goal, but he has always, essentially, been a hard-working winger.

At least Ferguson gave us an explanation, of a sort. There were hard games ahead, he told us, especially against Liverpool, and his Norwegian defender, Ronny Johnsen, was short of match practice. So Johnsen was deployed in central midfield, where, though he broke forward now and then, he largely looked a fish — or a defender — out of water.

When Beckham arrived, the wheels truly began to go round and, as Ferguson said, Wimbledon on their own ground are a difficult team to play. One against whom you can ill afford, surely, to omit your main men.

Indeed, Ferguson admitted generously that Wimbledon could have been two, even four goals up by half-time. They certainly created several chances, while United, in this period, made none.

Johnsen is no creator; Scholes, just about to begin what Ferguson whimsically called "a three-week holiday" — meaning suspension — was curiously restrained until the interval.

Time and again, in that first half, the lanky, highly-promising young Cort seemed likely to score for Wimbledon. He put a header just wide of the left-hand post and had a powerful drive from the left knocked down by Schmeichel. Before that, the United goalkeeper had beaten down a long shot by Ceri Hughes, while his best save of all was made at the galloping feet of the lively Michael Hughes, nodded through by Cort and Gayle.

That was shortly before the end of a half in which United had been increasingly on the ropes — but all that changed three minutes after the break. Ryan Giggs's inspired short, through-pass bisected the home defence and Nicky Butt drove the ball into the left-hand corner.

This seemed a travesty of what had gone before and Wimbledon did not repine. Michael Hughes and Cort had shots blocked; then Beckham came on and it was 2-0. Scholes, far more adventurous now, made progress on the left and his centre flew across the goal, where Beckham popped up to bang it home.

It was to Wimbledon's credit that they promptly hit back with two goals. The first followed almost immediately. After an appeal for hands against Pallister, the ball eventually ran out of United's box, where Ardley thumped it wide of Schmeichel.

Three minutes later, United's defence — criticised for its display by Ferguson — was surprisingly beaten by a long ball from Perry and Michael Hughes coolly equalised.

Then came what may have been the watershed. Just five minutes later, Beckham, Wimbledon's nemesis, scorer of last season's amazing long-range goal, shot from a distance, though not as great a one. In off Jones went the ball and United led again.

Now Andy Cole took wing. First, when Sheringham laid the ball off to him, he found Scholes, who back-heeled home. Then, when Sullivan had saved his first — a powerful right footer — Cole proceeded to beat him with an equally fierce left-footed shot.

To rub salt into Wimbledon's wounds, hundreds of their fans stayed behind to chant: "We'll never go to Dublin", as Wimbledon yet again are rumoured to be contemplating. It was a bit much, though, to assail Sam Hammam, the man who saved the club and boldly confronted them, as "Judas".

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, D Blackwell, C Perry, B Thatcher — M Hughes, N Ardley (sub R Earle, 84min), C Hughes (sub S Solbakken, 84), V Jones (sub A Clarke, 84) — C Cort, M Gayle.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville (sub D Beckham, 65), G Pallister, H Berg, P Neville — N Butt, P Scholes, R Johnsen, R Giggs — A Cole, E Sheringham.
Referee: P Durkin.

Cole celebrates with Giggs after scoring United's fifth goal yesterday

Everton find little comfort in retracing those familiar steps

ASTON VILLA 2
EVERTON 1

By Peter Robinson

BLUE-shirted, they sat and moaned. "Is it any coincidence that Huddersfield are unbeaten in six games since Barry Horne went there? I don't think so." "That Joe Parkinson, we miss him, really, he was the best ball-winner we've had in years, better than that Ince."

Gradually, the cafe filled up — more blue shirts — and the conversation died away. Silent and sullen, they stared at their mugs of tea or idly flicked through newspapers, not even objecting when the woman behind the counter ventured out and picked up a tabloid that one fan was about to read.

"Don't worry love, here's the telly section as well if you want it." It was an admission of defeat and the kick-off at Villa Park, looming around the corner, was still more than an hour and half away.

Perhaps those Everton supporters knew that Saturday was going to be a bad day, that the trip down the M6, never much fun at the best of times, simply heralded a worse afternoon. If they did, they were not wrong. By tea-time, their club was rooted to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership and the radio was giving bleak warnings of long delays at Stafford and Cannock.

Howard Kendall is an Everton man. He played in their stylish side of the Sixties and Seventies, won a championship, then won two more, plus cups, as their manager in the Eighties. He is in his third spell at the helm — and he looked desperately sad on Saturday evening.

He tried to sound defiant — "You have to put it in perspective. We will get better and we will win games. There is a long way to go" — but it was hardly tub-thumping stuff. Realistically, Kendall has a big job on his hands and, being a realist, he knows it. He was asked if Everton are in a false position. To paraphrase somewhat, the answer was, basically, no.

Indeed, he went further. "In three of the last four seasons, Everton have gone into the last week of the season under the threat of relegation. It gets to the players who have been here for that time and who have had nothing but battles against relegation. They probably think it has started again already." Which, probably, it has.

Last season, Sunderland were relegated after collecting 40 points and Coventry City, with 41, would have joined them but for Middlesbrough's three-point penalty for taking a sickie. This season is only five games short of its halfway mark and Everton have 12. There are lies, damned lies and statistics, but it is bleak reading all the same.

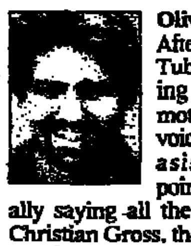
Nor does it look any better on the pitch. Everton scored an early goal, a Speed penalty after Stuart was felled, but never looked capable of keeping Villa from equalising, at worst. After Milosevic had spent half an hour missing as much as he could, he finally turned in Collymore's flick from a Staunton corner. Ehiogu launched himself at another Staunton corner for the winner after the break.

And, like all struggling teams, Everton had no luck. Ehiogu's handball inside the penalty area was overlooked and Barmby's late "equaliser" was ruled out for a marginal offside. Collymore also had an effort disallowed for offside, but nobody could dispute that decision — Milosevic the offender, predictably.

Villa drew some encouragement from the win before their Uefa Cup-tie in Romania tomorrow, but Steaua Bucharest will present far tougher opposition. They should be wary. Everton visit Chelsea on Wednesday. They have not won away from home for 11 months. You could say don't bet on them doing it at Stamford Bridge, but then Barnsley won at Anfield on Saturday and they were 9-1 outsiders. That result was some consolation, perhaps, for that trip back to Merseyside.

ASTON VILLA (3-4-1-2): M Oakes — U Ehiogu, S Staunton, R Scimeca — G Charles, M Draper, F Nelson, A Wright — D Yorke — S Collymore, S Milosevic.
EVERTON (4-3-2-1): N Southall — E Barrett (sub: J O'Connor, 74min), C Short, S Bilic, A Hinchcliffe — G Stuart, D Williamson (sub: G Farrelly, 78), G Speed — D Cadamarteri (sub: J Oster, 65), N Barmby — D Ferguson.
Referee: U Rennie.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
v
CRYSTAL PALACE
Today, 8.0



Oliver Holt

After waving his Tube ticket, quoting the Spurs motto, raising his voice to emphasise crucial points and generally saying all the right things, Christian Gross, the new manager of Tottenham Hotspur, will take charge of his first game at White Hart Lane tonight.

A London derby against Crystal Palace might not be the most auspicious of occasions, but anything other than a victory will leave Tottenham ever more vulnerable to sinking into the relegation zone.

Even without Attilio Lombardo, Palace have continued to impress and are likely to be bolstered further by their latest Italian acquisition, Michele Padovano, the forward signed from Juventus for £1.6 million.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable: 3-5-2): I Walker — C Calderwood, S Campbell, G Mabbutt — S Carr, J Dominguez, D Howells, D Ginola, A Sinton — D Anderton, S Iversen.
CRYSTAL PALACE (probable: 4-4-2): K Miller — S Rodger, D Tuttle, A Linighan, D Gordon — A Roberts, N Emblen, J Fullarton, B Dyer — M Padovano, N Shipperley.

■ TELEVISION: Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, 8pm.
■ PREDICTION: Draw.

Blackburn proving merits of homespun Hodgson methods

BLACKBURN ROVERS 1
CHELSEA 0

By David Maddock

ON TELEVISION on Saturday morning, Ron Atkinson could barely contain himself when asked about foreign coaches. "It's fashionable, but I'll tell you this," he spluttered, "it will be a British coach who wins the Premiership."

At Ewood Park four hours later, the point was eloquently reinforced by Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager. There is a lot of guff talked about foreign coaches and Alan Sugar seems to have fallen for it, but Hodgson, an old-fashioned Englishman, for all his continental experience, out-foxed Ruud Gullit, his exotic Chelsea counterpart.

"It was a very English contest," Hodgson said afterwards. "It must have been a remarkable game for an outsider, difficult to comprehend in the sense that there was very little time on the ball because both teams closed down so quickly."

We never discovered whether Gullit did understand what developed before him, because he cleared off straight after the match, without even the courtesy of a single word. Mind you, Hodgson was quite prepared to talk enough for everyone.

He was still at it beyond 6pm, explaining a philosophy that has transformed Rovers into genuine championship contenders without anybody realising it. He was also prepared to undermine — a little — the mystique that has built up around Gullit's Chelsea.

Walking into the press room after a game that his side had won comfortably enough, he noted a lot of unfamiliar faces. "Blimey, we'll have to play Chelsea more often if it gets all the national media to come to Blackburn," he smiled. "There is a big turn-out. Are Chelsea that good?"

Later, when asked if the visitors had been unlucky because Zola had woefully wasted three opportunities to tie the match, he responded with some venom. "We played well enough not to have to apologise for victory, they missed three chances, we missed five or six. There were long periods when we were clearly better."

Perhaps because his experience on the continent acts as a shield, Hodgson is not afraid to adopt a British approach. Where other English coaches confuse even themselves with systems that the players cannot grasp, Hodgson has applied traditional values in a modern manner.

Rovers won this match through a single goal from Gary Croft, his first for the club. It came after ten minutes when, from 20 yards, he viciously returned an attempted Leboeuf clearance with some interest. Yet their control for much of the remainder of the contest was borne of effort and strength throughout the side.

In Gallacher and Sherwood, Blackburn have a creative cutting edge — but they are also a very fit and physically imposing side, as Chelsea found to their cost. It was a theme which Tim Flowers, the Blackburn goalkeeper, took up afterwards.

"We have only lost once this season and whoever is going to beat us will have to be really up for it," he said. "The manager knows we have our limitations, but we are fit — we work all day.

"The manager has not taken any nonsense from anyone. Right from the start, we have trained morning and afternoon. In fact, the lads were praying for the clocks to go back, so we could go home when it was dark at 3.30pm, but he still sends us running in the dark — we've got luminous hats."

It would be easy for Chelsea to hide behind Zola's missed chances, but the simple truth is that, once again, they have played well and lost — and many people seem to have forgotten that Gullit is still a novice when it comes to management.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — J Kenna, T Pedersen, S Henchoz, G Croft — S Ripley (sub J Wilcox, 70min), T Sherwood, W McKinlay, G Flitcroft — K Gallacher, C Sutton.
CHELSEA (4-4-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, S Clarke, F Leboeuf (sub. D Granville, 83), C Babayaro — D Petrescu (sub: T A Flo, 71), E Newton, R Di Matteo, D Wise — G Zola, M Hughes.
Referee: S Lodge

هكذا من الاصل

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

A VILLA (1) 2 **EVERTON** (1) 1
Milosevic 36 · Speed 12 (pen)
Ehiogu 56 · 36,389

Aston Villa: M Oakes, G Charles, S Staunton, F Nelson, U Ehiogu, A Wright, R Scimeca, M Draper, S Milosevic, D Yorke, S Collymore

Booked: Wright, Staunton.

Everton: N Southall, E Barrett (sub: J O'Connor, 74min), A Hinchcliffe, D Williamson (sub: G Farrelly, 79min), C Short, S Bilic, G Stuart, N Barmby, D Ferguson, G Speed, D Cadamarteri (sub: J Oster, 66min).

Booked: Hinchcliffe, Barmby

Referee: U D Rennie.

BLACKBURN (1) 1 **CHELSEA** (0) 0
Croft 11 · 27,683

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, J Kenna, S Sherwood, P Pedersen, S Ripley (sub: J Wilcox, 69min), K Gallacher, C Sutton, G Flitcroft, B McKinlay, G Croft, S Henchoz

Booked: Gallacher

Chelsea: E De Goey, D Petrescu (sub: T A Flo, 71min), C Babayaro, F Leboeuf (sub: D Granville, 82min), S Clarke, M Hughes, D Wise, R Di Matteo, F Sinclair, E Newton, G Zola.

Booked: Newton, Di Matteo, Sinclair.

Referee: S J Lodge

DERBY (3) 3 **COVENTRY** (0) 1
Baiano 3 · Huckerby 71
Eranio 30 (pen) · 29,351
Wanchope 39

Derby County: M Poom, G Rowett, C Powell, D Sturridge, P Wanchope, J Laursen (sub: D Powell, 67min), L Carsley, S Eranio, C Dailly, R Kozluk, F Baiano (sub: R HoulT, 89min)

Booked: Carsley, Wanchope, Eranio, D Powell, Dailly

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, G Burrows, P Williams (sub: W Boland, 58min), G Breen, D Dublin, G McAllister, P Telfer, M Hall, S Haworth (sub: D Huckerby, 35min), R Nilsson

Booked: McAllister, Hall, Boland, Nilsson

Referee: D R Elleray

LEICESTER (0) 0 **BOLTON** (0) 0
20,464

Leicester City: K Keller, P Kaamark, S Guppy, S Prior, M Elliott, S Walsh, P Parker (sub: S Wilson, 62min), M Izzet, N Lennon, I Marshall, S Claridge (sub: G Fenton, 62min)

Booked: Parker

Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, P Frandsen, J Pollock, N Blake, G Bergsson, A Thompson, M Johansen (sub: A Gunnlaugsson, 79min), A Todd, M Fish, D Holdsworth, M Whitlow

Booked: Frandsen, Holdsworth.

Referee: G P Barber

LIVERPOOL (0) 0 **BARNSLEY** (1) 1
41,011 · Ward 35

Liverpool: D James, B Kvarme, J McAteer, S McManaman, O Leonhardsen, J Redknapp, K Riedle, P Berger, M Owen, S Bjornebye (sub: D Murphy, 65min), D Matteo.

Booked: Matteo

Barnsley: L Leese, N Eaden, A Moses, A De Zeeuw, N Redfearn, A Liddell (sub: M Appleby, 68min), M Bullock, E Tinkler, D Barnard, A Ward (sub: J Hendrie, 86min), P Markstedt.

Referee: J T Winter

NEWCASTLE (0) 2 **SOUTHAMPTON** (1) 1
Barnes 55, 75 · Davies 5
36,759

Newcastle United: S Hislop, S Watson, D Peacock, P Albert, A Pistone, D Batty, R Lee, T Ketsbaia, K Gillespie, J Tomasson, J Barnes.

Booked: Albert.

Southampton: P Jones, J Dodd, K Monkou, F Benali, C Lundekvam, C Palmer, M Oakley (sub: L Todd, 63min), K Richardson, M Le Tissier (sub: A Neilson, 57min), D Hirst (sub: S Basham, 78min), K Davies

Booked: Lundekvam, Hirst

Referee: D J Gallagher

SHEFF WED (1) 2 **ARSENAL** (0) 0
Booth 42 · 34,373
Whittingham 86

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, M Pembridge, J Newsome, D Walker, G Whittingham, A Booth, P Di Canio (sub: B Carbone, 79min), J Magilton (sub: G Hyde, 84min), P Rudi.

Booked: Nolan, Atherton.

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, A Adams, D Platt, I Wright, M Overmars, M Keown, R Parlour (sub: S Hughes, 38min), G Grimandi (sub: S Marshall, 51min), A Mendez (sub: C Wreh, 54min).

Booked: Grimandi, Adams, Platt. Referee: K W Burge.

WIMBLEDON (0) 2 **MAN UTD** (0) 5
Ardley 68 · Butt 48
Hughes 70 · Beckham 66, 76
26,309 · Scholes 81
Cole 87

Wimbledon: N Sullivan, K Cunningham, V Jones, D Blackwell, B Thatcher, C Hughes (sub: A Clarke, 85min), M Gayle, C Perry, M Hughes, N Ardley (sub: S Solbakken, 85min), C Cort. Booked: C Hughes, Perry

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, G Neville (sub: D Beckham, 65min), R Johnsen, G Pallister, N Butt, A Cole, E Sheringham, R Giggs, P Neville, P Scholes, H Berg.

Booked: Scholes. Referee: P A Durkin.

Yesterday

LEEDS (0) 3 **WEST HAM** (0) 1
Hasselbaink 76, 90 · Lampard 65
Haaland 88 · 30,031

Leeds United: N Martyn, G Kelly, D Wetherall, L Radebe, D Robertson, G Halle, L Bowyer, A I Haaland, B Ribeiro, J Hasselbaink, R Wallace

West Ham United: L Miklosko, T Breacker, S Potts, I Pearce, D Unsworth, A Impey, S Lomas, F Lampard, E Berkovic (sub: J Moncur, 84min), J Hartson, S Abou (sub: I Dowie, 87min).

Booked: Potts.

Referee: G R Ashby.

GOALSCORERS

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: 14: J Hartson (West Ham). 12: D Bergkamp (Arsenal), A Cole (Man Utd) 11: C Sutton (Blackburn). 10: K Davies (Southampton); P Wanchope (Derby); G Vialli (Chelsea) 9: F Baiano (Derby); I Wright (Arsenal); R Wallace (Leeds). 8: D Dublin (Coventry); K Gallacher (Blackburn); E Sheringham (Man Utd); R Fowler (Liverpool).

Includes all competitions

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

BURY (1) 1 **SUNDERLAND** (1) 1
Lucketti 9 · Phillips 32
7,790

CREWE (0) 0 **STOCKPORT** (1) 1
5,731 · Cooper 24

MAN CITY (0) 1 **BRADFORD** (0) 0
Vaughan 90 · 29,746

NORWICH (1) 2 **OXFORD UTD** (0) 1
Fleck 31 · Powell 80
Bellamy 61 · 11,241

NOTTM F (1) 5 **CHARLTON** (0) 2
Van Hooijdonk 21, 50, 56 · Allen 58
Woan 75 · Woan 79 (og)
Campbell 85 · 18,532

PORT VALE (0) 0 **SHEFF UTD** (0) 0
8,017

QPR (1) 2 **HUDDERSFIELD** (0) 1
Quashie 25, 79 · Morrison 89
16,066

READING (0) 0 **IPSWICH** (2) 4
9,400 · Holland 26
Johnson 30
Scowcroft 49
Naylor 87

SWINDON (1) 1 **MIDDLESBRO** (1) 2
Ndah 12 · Merson 22
15,228 · Emerson 75

TRANMERE (1) 3 **STOKE** (1) 1
Jones 9 · Kavanagh 35 (pen)
Aldridge 66 · 8,009
O'Brien 87

POSTPONED: Portsmouth v Wolverhampton
POOLS PANEL RESULT: H-T no score draw; F-T no score draw

Yesterday

WEST BROM (0) 1 **BIRMINGHAM** (0) 0
Sneekes 83 · 18,444

SECOND DIVISION

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 **YORK** (0) 0
Strong 68 · 4,508

BOURNEMTH (2) 3 **CARLISLE** (1) 2
Fletcher 5 · Barr 24
Beardsmore 35 · Stevens 61
O'Neill 64 · 3,709

BRISTOL CITY (1) 3 **WYCOMBE** (0) 1
Hewlett 38, 59 · Scott 82 (pen)
Torpey 67 · 11,129

GRIMSBY (1) 4 **BURNLEY** (1) 1
Groves 19 · Weller 16
Widdrington 59 · 4,829
Lester 73
Nogan 78

LUTON (0) 0 **WALSALL** (0) 1
4,726 · Hodge 60

MILLWALL (0) 1 **CHESTRFLD** (0) 1
Shaw 61 · Perkins 68
6,556

NORTHMPTN (0) 0 **WATFORD** (0) 1
7,373 · Kennedy 57

OLDHAM (0) 1 **BRENTFORD** (0) 1
McCarthy 56 · Scott 90
5,012

SOUTHEND (1) 1 **BRISTOL R** (0) 1
J Boere 40 · Beadle 85 (pen)
3,653

WIGAN (0) 1 **PRESTON** (1) 4
Kilford 59 · Cartwright 21, 53
5,543 · Ashcroft 71
Kidd 73

WREXHAM (0) 1 **PLYMOUTH** (0) 1
Ward 71 · Billy 58
3,641

Sent off: A Littlejohn (Plymouth) 26

FRIDAY'S LATE RESULT: Fulham 3 Gillingham 0

THIRD DIVISION

BRIGHTON (0) 0 **CARDIFF** (1) 1
2,035 · Allan 20 (og)

COLCHESTER (0) 0 **LINCOLN** (0) 1
2,332 · Gordon 61

Sent off: P Gamey (Colchester) [illegible]

DARLINGTON (1) 1 **CAMBRIDGE U** (1) 1
Shutt 6 · Taylor 7
2,221

DONCASTER (0) 0 **ROCHDALE** (1) 3
1,603 · Stuart 42, 56
Lancashire 69

EXETER (1) 2 **SHRWSBURY** (1) 2
Rowbotham 1 · Scott 17, 79
Flack 69 · 4,041

HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 **BARNET** (0) 0
Cullen 25, 76 · 2,225

L ORIENT (0) 1 **NOTTS CO** (0) 1
Harris 79 · Farrell 66
4,372

MACCLSFLD (1) 2 **HULL** (0) 0
Peel 37 · 2,508
Landon 67

PETERBORO (1) 1 **MANSFIELD** (0) 1
Quinn 4 · Peacock 57
6,202

SCARBORO (1) 1 **ROTHERHAM** (0) 2
Mitchell 45 · Roscoe 52
2,317 · Thompson 77

TORQUAY (1) 2 **SCUNTHRPE** (2) 4
Gibbs 34 · Calvo-Garcia 11, 78
Gurney 79 · D [illegible] 45
2,192 · Wilcox 71

POSTPONED: Swansea v Chester

GOALSCORERS

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: FIRST DIVISION: 17: P van Hooijdonk (Nottm Forest). 14: C Hay (Swindon). 13: B Angell (Stockport). 10: A Hunt (West Brom); C Mendonca (Charlton); D Johnson (Ipswich); D Kelly (Tranmere). 9: K Campbell (Nottm Forest); L Jones (Tranmere); P Merson (Middlesbrough); A Armstrong (Stockport). 8: J Aloisi (Portsmouth); G Creaney (Man City); A Naylor (Port Vale); M Beck (Middlesbrough).

SECOND DIVISION: 12: R Boli (Walsall); R Rowe (York); R Taylor (Brentford). 11: M Stallard (Wycombe); S Goater (Bristol City); P Peschisolido (Fulham). 10: A Akinbiyi (Gillingham); M Jansen (Carlisle). 9: S Barlow (Oldham); P Kennedy (Watford); D Seal (Northampton); R Rosenthal (Watford); A Thorpe (Luton). 8: A Ellis (Blackpool); S Hayles (Bristol Rovers).

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

CELTIC (1) 4 **DUNDEE UTD** (0) 0
Thom 35 (pen), 69 · 48,581
Larsson 63, 77

Celtic: J Gould, T Boyd, S Mahe, J McNamara, E Annoni, D Hannah, H Larsson, M Wieghorst, A Thom (sub: T McKinlay, 83min), P Lambert (sub: S Donnelly, 46min), R Blinker (sub: D Jackson, 70min)

Booked: Hannah.

Dundee United: S Dykstra, S McKimmie (sub: I Johnsson, 70min), M Malpas, S Pressley, M Perry, E Pedersen, K Olofsson, L Zetterlund, G McSwegan (sub: R Winters, 45min), C Easton, J Dolan (sub: M Andersson, 58min).

Referee: H Dallas.

DUNFRLNE (0) 1 **ABERDEEN** (0) 1
Petrie 81 · Dodds 66
6,738

Dunfermline: I Westwater, G Shields, I Den Bieman, A Tod, D Barnett, H Curran (sub: G Britton, 74min), G Shaw (sub: A Moore, 63min), S Duarte, A Smith, H French, D Bingham (sub: S Petrie, 74min).

Aberdeen: J Leighton, R Anderson, I Kiriakov, B O'Neil, A Kombouare, G Smith, D Young (sub: R Gillies, 76min), E Jess, D Rowson, D Dodds (sub: M Newell, 86min), S Glass.

Booked: O'Neil.

Referee: T Brown.

MOTHERWLL (0) 1 **RANGERS** (1) 1
Coyne 80 · McCoist 20
12,018

Motherwell: S Woods, E May (sub: D Arnott, 77min), S McMillan, K Christie, S Craigan, J Philliben, J Hendry, S Valakari, T Coyne (sub: L McCulloch, 82min), S McSkimming, O Coyle.

Rangers: A Goram, S McCall, A Cleland, R Gough, S Porrini, J Bjorklund, J Thern, I Ferguson (sub: S Stensaas, 83min), M Negri, A McCoist (sub: I Durrant, 61min), J Albertz (sub: J Johansson, 82min)

Referee: E Martindale.

ST JOHNSTN (1) 1 **HIBERNIAN** (0) 0
Scott 2 · 5,403

St Johnstone: A Main, J McQuillan, A Preston, N Dasovic, A Kernaghan, J Weir, P Scott (sub: S McCluskey, 88min), K O'Halloran, P Kane, G O'Boyle, L Jenkinson (sub: J O'Neil, 54min).

Hibernian: D Gottskalksson, M Renwick (sub: P Tosh, 79min), J Boco, A Dods, J Hughes, J Chamley, A Dow, C Jackson (sub: B Lavety, 58min), P McGinlay (sub: B Laursen, 69min), S Crawford, L Power

Booked: Charnley

Referee: G Mitchell.

Yesterday

HEARTS (2) 5 **KILMARNCK** (1) 3
Adam 10, 61, 70 · Nevin 5
McCann 28 · Holt 62
Quitongo 88 · Roberts 76 (pen)
15,500

Hearts: G Rousset, G Locke, S Frail (sub: J Hamilton, 67min), D Weir, S Salvatori, P Ritchie, N McCann (sub: J Quitongo, 87min), S Fulton, S Adam, I Cameron, T Flogel (sub: J Robertson, 79min).

Kilmarnock: D Lekovic, A MacPherson, M Baker, J Lauchlan, K McGowne, M Reilly, P Nevin, G Holt, M Roberts, J Vareille, A Mitchell

Booked: Baker, McGowne, Roberts.

Referee: A Freeland.

FIRST DIVISION

AYR (3) 6 **AIRDRIE** (0) 0
Diallo 20, 62 · 1,838
Ferguson 37
Dick 44
Traynor 46
Smith 86

DUNDEE (0) 0 **G MORTON** (0) 1
3,489 · Hawke 73

FALKIRK (0) 0 **RAITH** (1) 1
3,162 · McGowan 16 (og)

PARTICK (1) 2 **ST MIRREN** (2) 2
Archibald 16 · Roddie 6
Boyle 90 (pen) · Taylor 14
4,583

Sent off: S Watson (St Mirren) 44

STIRLING (0) 2 **HAMILTON** (0) 1
Bone 47, 64 · McEntegart 84
970

SECOND DIVISION

CLYDE (3) 4 **INVERNESS CT.** (1) 3
Brownlie 6, 21 · Thomson 10
Scott 25, 57 · Cherry 46
800 · Stewart 71

CLYDEBANK (1) 1 **LIVINGSTON** (0) 1
Lovering 34 · Fowler 87
490

EAST FIFE (1) 2 **STRANRAER** (1) 2
Donaghy 1 · Kinnaird 16
Dyer 86 · Campbell 78
415

FORFAR (1) 1 **STENHOUSEMUIR** (0) 1
Honeyman 23 · Hutchison 63
385

QUEEN OF SOUTH (0) 0 **BRECHIN** (0) 0
1,356

THIRD DIVISION

ALBION (0) 0 **COWDNBTH** (0) 1
455 · Brown 78

Sent off: M Mehmn (Albion) 45
V Moore (Albion) 90

ARBROATH (0) 2 **ALLOA** (2) 3
Thomson 71 · Pew 30
Spence 89 · Irvine 45
731 · Gilmour 87

EAST STIRLING (1) 4 **BERWICK** (0) 0
Paris 41 · 323
McPherson 56, 84
Watt 87

Sent off: J Clarke (Berwick) 81
T Cunningham (Berwick) 26

QUEEN'S PARK (2) 2 **DUMBARTON** (0) 3
Conroy 6 · McKinnon 51
Edgar 32 · Sharpe 73, 86
598

ROSS CO (4) 8 **MONTROSE** (1) 1
Ferguson 5 · Hrocns 21
Furphy 16 · 1,434
Adams 35, 44, 70
Wood 50
McBain 59
Farrell 65

GOALSCORERS

BELL'S LEAGUE: PREMIER DIVISION: 27: M Negri (Rangers). 14: R Winters (Dundee Utd), G McSwegan (Dundee Utd) 12: H Larsson (Celtic), A Smith (Dunfermline) 11: K Olofsson (Dundee Utd) 10: S Donnelly (Celtic) 9: T Coyne (Motherwell) 8: A McCoist (Rangers) 7: D Dodds (Aberdeen) A Thom (Celtic); P Wright (Kilmarnock), N McCann (Hearts) S Adams (Hearts) 6: S Crawford (Hibernian) O Coyle (Motherwell)

OVERSEAS

ITALIAN LEAGUE: Internazionale 2 AC Milan 2; Piacenza 0 Lazio 0; Bologna 2 Fiorentina 2; Brescia 0 Udinese 4; Empoli 1 Atalanta Bergamo 0; Juventus 2 Parma 2; Lecce 2 Napoli 0; AS Roma 2 Vicenza 2; Sampdoria 1 Bari 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Internazionale	9	7	2	0	22	10	23
Juventus	9	6	3	0	22	6	21
Parma	9	5	3	1	17	6	18
AS Roma	9	4	4	1	18	10	16
Udinese	9	5	1	3	18	17	16
Lazio	9	4	3	2	13	8	15
Vicenza	9	4	3	2	14	14	15
Sampdoria	9	4	2	3	14	15	14
Fiorentina	9	3	3	3	17	12	12
AC Milan	9	3	3	3	12	10	12
Atalanta	9	3	1	5	11	13	10
Empoli	9	3	1	5	10	14	10
Brescia	9	3	1	5	12	17	10
Lecce	9	3	0	6	9	19	9
Bologna	9	1	4	4	13	16	7
Bari	9	2	1	6	8	19	7
Piacenza	9	0	4	5	5	14	4
Napoli	9	1	1	7	7	22	4

SPANISH LEAGUE: Oviedo 1 Barcelona 0; Athletic Bilbao 1 Real Madrid 1; Atlético Madrid 3 Valencia 1; Oviedo 1 Barcelona 0; Salamanca 0 Real Sociedad 0; Real Zaragoza 1 Tenerife 0; Merida 0 Mallorca 0; Celta 1 Racing Santander 2; Compostela 0 Valladolid 0.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	13	8	4	1	23	9	28
Barcelona	13	9	1	3	27	16	28
Atlético Madrid	13	7	4	2	30	13	25
Celta Vigo	13	7	3	3	23	15	24
Español	12	6	5	1	21	7	23
Real Sociedad	13	6	5	2	16	8	23
Mallorca	13	5	6	2	21	10	21
Oviedo	13	5	6	2	18	16	21
Athletic Bilbao	13	4	7	2	15	12	19
Real Zaragoza	13	4	5	4	20	23	17
Merida	13	4	4	5	10	16	16
Racing Santander	13	4	3	6	14	18	15
Compostela	13	3	5	5	19	20	14
Real Betis	12	3	5	4	14	18	14
Deportivo Coruna	12	2	7	3	13	13	13
Tenerife	13	3	3	7	12	22	12

Does not include last night's late match

GERMAN LEAGUE: VfL Wolfsburg 2 Kaiserslautern 1; VfB Stuttgart 3 Karlsruhe SC 0; Schalke 04 2 TSV 1860 Munich 0; Cologne 3 Arminia Bielefeld 5; Hertha Berlin 2 Bayer Leverkusen 2; Bayern Munich 3 MSV Duisburg 0; VfL Bochum 0 Werder Bremen 1, SV Hamburg 1 Borussia Dortmund 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kaiserslautern	16	11	3	2	35	20	36
Bayern Munich	16	10	5	1	35	15	35
VfB Stuttgart	16	8	4	4	33	19	28
Schalke 04	16	8	4	4	19	14	28
Bayer Leverkusen	16	7	5	4	30	20	26
MSV Duisburg	16	7	2	7	20	21	23
Hansa Rostock	15	6	3	6	25	21	21
Bor Dortmund	17	5	6	6	26	24	21
Werder Bremen	16	6	3	7	17	23	21
Wolfsburg	16	6	2	8	20	25	20
1860 Munich	16	5	5	6	21	28	20
SV Hamburg	16	5	4	7	22	28	19
Hertha Berlin	16	5	4	7	20	26	19
Bor M'gladbach	15	4	6	5	27	28	18
Arminia Bielefeld	16	6	0	10	22	27	18
Karlsruhe	16	4	5	7	24	34	17
Cologne	17	5	1	11	24	38	16
VfL Bochum	16	3	4	9	19	30	13

Does not include last night's late match

DUTCH LEAGUE: PSV Eindhoven 3 Twente Enschede 0; Ajax 1 Graafschap Doetinchem 0; MVV Maastricht 1 RKC Waalwijk 1; NAC Breda 3 Fortuna Sittard 1; Vitesse Arnhem 5 Groningen 1; Roda JC Kerkrade 0 Willem II Tilburg 1; Feyenoord 3 Utrecht 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE: Strasbourg 2 Marseille 0; Monaco 3 Paris-SG 0; Auxerre 3 Montpellier 1; Bastia 1 Lens 0; Cannes 1 Lyons 0; Metz 2 Toulouse 1; Le Havre 0 Guingamp 0; Chateauroux 1 Bordeaux 0; Rennes 3 Nantes 0.

PORTUGUESE LEAGUE: Sporting Lisbon 2 Estrela Amadora 2; Braga 1 FC Porto 2; Boavista 0 Benfica 0

BELGIAN LEAGUE: Eeklo 2 FC Bruges 2; Aalst 2 Lommel 1; Standard Liège 2 Antwerp 2; Excelsior Mouscron 1 Beveren 1; Charleroi 3 Harelbeke 3; Lokeren 3 Westerlo 0; Anderlecht 1 St Trond 0; Genk 3 Molenbeek 0; Gent 1 Lierse 0.

WORLD CUP: Asian (AFC) and Oceanian zone (OFC): Play-off, first leg: Iran 1 (Azizi 42) Australia 1 (Kewell 19) (at Azadi Stadium, Tehran).

Fabio Viviani, centre, of Vicenza, tries to get to the top of the heap during the Italian League match with AS Roma that finished as a 2-2 draw. Photo: Giuseppe Calzuola

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE

CHELTENHAM (1) 2 **GATESHEAD** (0) 0
Eaton 8 · 1,659
Victory 65

HALIFAX (0) 3 **HEREFORD** (0) 0
Horsfield 64, 78, 88 · 2,214

HAYES (0) 1 **NORTHWICH** (1) 1
Sparks 85 · Crookes 32
438

HEDNESFORD (0) 2 **SLOUGH** (1) 1
Carty 56 · Bolt 4
Ware 90 · 1,695

KIDDRMNSTR (2) 4 **KETTERING** (1) 1
Doherty 30 (pen), 84 · Wilkes 27
Bignall 39 · 1,874
Willetts 67

MORECAMBE (2) 3 **RUSHDEN & D** (0) 1
Norman 10 · Capone 90
Shirley 43 · 1,449
Whyte 84 (og)

SOUTHPORT (1) 4 **STALYBRIDGE** (0) 2
Gamble 42, 89 · Trundle 86
Kielty 52 · Burke 89
Butler 73 · 909

STEVENAGE (2) 5 **FARNBOROUGH** (0) 0
Wordsworth 10, 79 · 2,029
Soloman 32
Trott 59
Crawshaw 68 (pen)

WELLING (1) 4 **TELFORD** (1) 1
Copley 42 · Taylor 9
Cooper 71, 73 · 577
Watson 90

YEOVIL (1) 2 **WOKING** (0) 0
Stott 7 · 3,005
Roberts 76

	HOME						AWAY					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Halifax	15	8	0	0	24	4	4	3	1	10	8	39
Hednesford	18	8	2	0	16	6	3	3	2	15	15	38
Cheltenham	16	6	2	0	18	7	4	2	2	12	10	34
Morecambe	16	4	3	2	18	17	5	2	0	18	5	32
Woking	18	5	2	1	17	8	3	4	3	11	11	30
Southport	16	5	1	2	18	11	3	3	2	13	10	28
Rushden	17	4	2	2	16	12	4	0	5	10	15	26
Hayes	17	4	2	3	14	10	3	2	3	12	8	25
Hereford	17	3	3	2	13	11	3	3	3	12	11	24
Stevenage	18	3	4	2	15	11	2	3	4	10	13	22
Yeovil	14	5	1	2	18	10	1	1	4	7	10	20
Dover	16	4	1	3	10	11	2	1	5	11	19	20
Slough	15	1	2	4	12	14	4	2	2	12	9	19
Kiddrmnstr	18	3	3	3	13	11	2	1	6	10	16	19
Welling	15	3	2	3	13	13	2	1	4	8	13	18
Farnborough	17	3	1	4	7	10	2	2	5	12	23	18
Northwich	16	1	6	0	10	9	1	5	3	11	15	17
Leek	17	3	3	3	14	11	1	2	5	9	19	17
Telford	17	1	3	3	7	11	2	3	5	14	22	15
Stalybridge	16	3	2	3	14	12	1	0	7	6	17	14
Kettering	15	1	3	4	9	13	0	3	4	6	14	9
Gateshead	17	1	2	6	9	19	0	4	4	11	20	9

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Accrington Stanley 1 Bishop Auckland 1; Alfreton 1 Lancaster 1, Bamber Bridge 0 Colwyn Bay 2; Frickley 0 Barrow 1; Guiseley 2 Chorley 1; Hyde 3 Leigh RMI 3, Marine 1 Altrincham 0; Radcliffe 1 Blyth Spartans 2; Runcorn 2 Gainsborough 0; Spennymoor 1 Boston 2; Winsford 0 Emley 1

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barrow	21	14	4	3	34	12	46
Boston Utd	19	8	8	3	25	18	32
Bishop Auckl	19	8	7	4	36	26	31
Altrincham	20	9	3	8	34	20	30
Runcorn	19	9	3	7	35	27	30
Guiseley	19	7	8	4	29	25	29
Emley	18	8	4	6	31	26	28
Colwyn Bay	18	8	3	7	26	28	27
Winsford Utd	13	8	2	3	18	8	26
Lancaster	21	7	5	9	33	38	26
Spennymoor	16	7	4	5	22	22	25

FIRST DIVISION: Ashton 3 Harrogate Town 0, Bradford PA 2 Stocksbridge PS 3, Buxton 1 Gretna 3; Congleton 1 Whitby 2; Eastwood Town 1 Great Harwood 1; Lincoln 1 Droylsden 2, Trafford 0 Farsley Celtic 1, Whitley Bay 1 Matlock Town 0; Witton 4 Flixton 1; Workington 0 Belper Town 2; Worksop 4 Netherfield 1

DR MARTENS

PREMIER DIVISION: Bath 5 Nuneaton 0; Cambridge City 1 Gresley 0; Crawley 0 Burton 0; Forest Green 3 Atherstone 1; Hastings 3 Bromsgrove 2; King's Lynn 2 Dorchester 0; Merthyr 3 Ashford 0; Rothwell 1 St Leonards 1, Salisbury 1 Worcester 1, Sittingbourne 2 Gloucester 0; Tamworth 0 Halesowen 2

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Merthyr	17	12	3	2	32	11	39
Forest Green	18	10	4	4	41	26	34
Dorchester	18	9	5	4	29	16	32
Kings Lynn	16	9	4	3	24	21	31
Crawley Town	18	8	6	4	30	24	30
Bath	17	8	5	4	32	24	29
Atherstone	18	8	4	6	24	23	28
Halesowen	17	7	6	4	23	10	27
Nuneaton	17	8	3	6	38	26	27

MIDLAND DIVISION: Bedworth 2 Wisbech 5, Bilston 3 Brackley 0; Blakenall 4 Stafford 1, Corby 1 Shepshed Dynamo 3 Evesham 2 Stourbridge 3, Grantham 2 Solihull Boro 2; Moor Green 3 Hinckley 1; RC Warwick 0 Redditch 2, Sutton Coldfield Town 1 Raunds 1; VS Rugby 4 Paget 1 Southern division: Chelmsford 1 Trowbridge 0; Cinderford 1 Fisher 2; Cirencester 3 Havant 4, Margate 1 Fareham 2, Newport AFC 2 Waterlooville 0, Weston-S-Mare 1 Erith and Belvedere 0 Weymouth 3 Baldock 1, Witney 4 Bashley 0 Postponed: Dartford v Clevedon; Tonbridge Angels v Newport IOW

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Saffron Walden 0 Brentwood 1: Southend Manor 1 Eton Manor 1. Postponed. East Ham v Ilford

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chessington and Hook 4 Feltham 2; Cove 0 Walton Casuals 2; Hartley Wintney 0 Farnham 6, Merstham 3 Cobham 2; Netherne 2 Godalming and Guilford 0; Raynes Park Vale 4 Bedfont 2, Westfield 5 Sandhurst 0 Postponed: Ash v Reading, Cranleigh v Viking Sports.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham 0 Sheppey 1, Crockenhill 1 Thamesmead 5; Greenwich 2 VCD 2; Hythe 3 Swanley Furness 3. Lordswood 2 Cray 2; Slade Green 1 Erith 1 Postponed: Tunbridge Wells v Canterbury

RYMAN

PREMIER DIVISION: Chesham 3 Hitchin 3; Dulwich 0 Dagenham and R 2, Enfield 3 Harrow 5, Gravesend and Northfleet 1 Walton and Hersham 2; Hendon 2 Boreham Wood 1; Heybridge Swifts 1 Kingstonian 3; Oxford City 1 Carshalton 1; Purfleet 3 Bishop's Stortford 1; St Albans 1 Aylesbury 3; Sutton United 1 Basingstoke 1; Yeading 1 Bromley 1.

Leading positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham & R	19	12	4	2	35	15	40
Sutton Utd	17	10	4	3	35	18	34
Kingstonian	17	9	6	2	33	17	33
Boreham W	17	8	4	5	36	22	28
Harrow Boro	15	9	1	5	25	22	28
Purfleet	16	7	5	4	23	21	26
Heybridge	14	8	1	5	30	21	25
Enfield	18	7	4	7	28	30	25
St Albans	16	7	3	6	21	21	24
Hendon	16	6	5	5	20	22	23

FIRST DIVISION: Abingdon Town 2 Wokingham 2; Aldershot Town 1 Thame Utd 1, Barton Rovers 1 Maidenhead United 0; Billericay 4 Wembley 0; Bognor 2 Leatherhead 0 Chertsey 2 Romford 4, Croydon 1 Staines 2; Hampton 3 Berkhamsted 2; Leyton Pennant 3 Molesey 1; Uxbridge 3 Grays 2; Whyteleafe 0 Worthing 1 Second division: Egham 0 Chalfont St Peter 2, Tilbury 1 Bedford Town 1, Windsor and Eton 5 Wivenhoe 1, Witham 1 Cheshunt 1 Third division: Croydon 1 East Thurrock 2; Hornchurch 2 Southall 1; Tring 0 Ford 2; Ware 0 Dorking 4 Postponed: Epsom and Ewell v Corinthian Casuals. Lewes v Harlow

FA VASE

SECOND ROUND: Dunston Fed Brewery 1 Atherton LR 0, Seaham Red Star 2 Chadderton 1; Rossendale 1 Tow Law 2; West Auckland 1 Curzon Ashton 0; Armthorpe Welfare 1 Denaby 1, North Ferriby 7 Murton 0; Peterlee Newtown 1 Brigg 3 Warrington 0 Poulton 1; Kidsgrove 2 Brodsworth 2; Nantwich 1 Burscough 3; Stockton 3 Sheffield 1, Mossley 1 Jarrow Roofing Boldon CA 1; Thackley 6 Borrowash 1 Chester-Le-Street 4 Billingham Town 4; Clitheroe 5 Guisborough 0; Bedlington 5 Billingham Synthonia 0, Durham 0 Marske 1; Newcastle Town 0 Birstall 1; Friar Lane O B 1 Wednesfield 0 Boldmere St Michaels 0 Arnold 0 Spalding 2 Mirrlees Blackstone 0; Barwell 1 Boston 4; Kirkley 0 Stamford AFC 1 Ely 1 Warcester 0 Cradley 5 Norwich 1, Staveley MW 1 Wroxham 3 Bloxwich 2 Diss 1; Rocester 2 Histon 2; Hucknall 2 Stourport 1 Ashford 5 Littlehampton 3, Deal 2 Gt Wakering 2; Shoreham 2 Sudbury 4; Basildon 3 Edgware 2; Potters Bar 4 Whitstable 2; Faversham 1 Banstead 2. Braintree 8 Concord 1; Peacehaven and Telscombe 1 Chatham 0; Harwich and Parkeston 1 Folkestone Invicta 1; Chipstead 3 Barking 1; Met Police 0 Tooting and Mitcham 1; Hungerford 1 Brook House 6, Hemel Hempstead 3 Wick 2 Camberley 3 Corinthian 0 Burnham Spartans 2 Halstead 1. Sawbridgeworth 1 Stotfold 5; Burgess Hill 2 Canvey Island 1 Sudbury Wanderers 4 Flackwell Heath 0 Bowers 3 Buckingham Town 0 Northwood 0 Woodbridge 2; Arlesey 3 Waltham Abbey 2; Herne Bay 1 Langney Sports 1, Arlesey 2 Burnham 2, Ramsgate 0 Wealdstone 1, Wimborne 3 Gosport 1; Elmore 2 Chard 4, Paulton 2 Porthleven 4 Chippenham 3 Andover 2, Tiverton 5 Mangotsfield 1; Bridport 3 Bridgwater 0; Taunton 5 Hungerford 1, Thatcham 2 Marlow 0; BAT Sports 1 Bodmin 3; Lymington 0 Bemerton Heath Harlequins 0. Endsleigh 0 Cowes Sports 2.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Chichester 4 Saltdean 2; Horsham YMCA 1 Eastbourne Town 2; Mile Oak 2 Portfield 4; Redhill 4 Pagham 1. Postponed: Arundel v Selsey; Hailsham v Hassocks; Ringmer v Whitehawk.

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford 4 Calne 3; Brislington 2 Odd Down 0; Keynsham 1 Barnstaple 4.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers 2 Atherton Collieries 0; Holker Old Boys 2 Maine Road 0; Glossop North End 2 Ramsbottom 0; Prescot Cables 3 Haslingden 4; Salford 1 St Helens 2, Vauxhall GM 2 Darwen 0

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Parkfield 0 Hale End 0; St Marys College 4 HAC 2. Senior Two: Fulham Compton OB 3 Albanian 1; Hampstead Heathens 3 Ealing Association 1; Wandsworth 2 Westerns 3, Old Grammarians 4 UCL Academicals 1.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Suttonians 0 Old Hamptonians 2 Senior First division: Chertsey OS 3 Old Manorians 0, Clapham OX 2 Old Roligatians 2.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier Division: Carthusians 2 Lancing 5 First division: Aldenhamians 3 Wellingburians 2, Haileyburians 2 Malvernians 2, Wittecans 2 Harrovians 1

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 6 Ettingshall 1; Bustleholme 1 Tividale 2, Cradley 1 Gornal 2; Lye 0 Malvern 1; Stafford 1 Ludlow 2; Wolverhampton Casuals 1 Brierley Hill 1, Wolverhampton 0 Darlaston 0

INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Halesowen H 1 Chasetown 2, Kings Norton 2 Bridgnorth 0; Pershore T 2 Oldbury U 4; Rushall O 2 Pelsall V 5, Shifnal T 3 W Mid Police 4, Stratford T 3 Sandwell 1; Willenhall 2 Stapenhill 2.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Alvechurch 1 Highgate 0; Chelsyn Hay 3 Coleshill 3 Continental Star 2 Meir KA 0; Coventry Sphinx 3 David Lloyd AFC 2, Kenilworth 1 Studley BKL 3, Kings Heath 4 Bilston Community College 1; Knowle 5 Boldmere Swifts 3, Massey Ferguson 4 Dudley Sports 1. Wellesbourne 1 Southam 4 Presidents cup: Holly Lane 0 Colletts Green 0 Chelmsley 2 Shirley 1, Newhall 3 Alveston 1 Hams Hall 1 Fairfield Villa 3 Postponed: Monica Star v Polesworth North Warwick.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe 1 Wellingborough 1 Ford Sports 1 N Spencer 4 Holbeach 1 St Neots 0, Long Buckby 0 S and L Corby 1, Potton 1 Desborough 2; Wootton 2 Bourne 2, Yaxley 6 Kempston 0.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bury Town 2 Lowestoft 4; Clacton 1 Newmarket 1; Felixstowe Port and 1 Warboys 2; Soham 2 Fakenham 1, Stowmarket 4 Tiptree 1 Walton 1 Gorleston 3.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division. Totton 1 Brockenhurst 1. Bournemouth 8 Portsmouth RN 1; Downton 3 Aerostructures 3 Romsey 3 East Cowes 1 Whitchurch 2 Eastleigh 1.

COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Banbury 7 Harrow Hill 1; Bicester 0 Carterton 4: Didcot 0 Fairford 1; Kintbury 3 Hallen 2: North Leigh 2 Shortwood 4 Swindon Supermarine 6 Abingdon 1; Wantage 1 Tuffley 1

MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division South: Barkingside 3 Harefield 2; Beaconsfield 1 Woodford 1, Hanwell 3 Islington 4 St Margaretsbury 1 Ruislip Manor 6 Premier division North: Biggleswade 1 Royston 3, Harpenden 2 Milton Keynes 0, Langford 1 Buckingham Athletic 4; London Colney 2 Toddington 2; Welwyn Garden 3 Letchworth 2. Senior division: Caddington 0 Houghton 2; Kent 3 Ampthill 2; Shillington 1 Winslow 1; Stony Stratford 1 Risborough 1: Tring 3 Biggleswade 1

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Eccleshill 0 Ossett Town 0; Glasshoughton Welfare 1 Pontefract Cols 1; Hallam 2 Selby 3; Maltby M.W. 2 Pickering 1. Postponed: Hatfield Main v Ossett Albion.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: South Bank Poly 0 Old Actonians 2; Winchmore Hill 1 Old Lyonians 1; Kew Association 3 Bank of England 1; Broomfield 3 Old Westminster Ctz. 1; Ibis 1 Southgate Olympic 0.

FA PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: Arsenal 3 West Ham 0; Chelsea 1 Queens Park Rangers 2; Crystal Palace 2 Wimbledon 0; Derby 1 Sheff Wed 0; Leeds 3 Sunderland 3; Middlesbrough 2 Coventry 1; Nottingham Forest 3 Barnsley 1; Southampton 3 Tottenham Hotspur 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: First division: Gillingham 1 Leyton Orient 2; Millwall 0 Norwich 3; Southend 2 Arsenal 0. Postponed: Portsmouth v Cambridge, Queens Park Rangers v Tottenham Hotspur. Second division: Barnet 7 Oxford 1; Colchester 1 Brentford 1; Tottenham Hotspur 4 Bristol Rovers 1. Postponed: Brighton v Southampton; Wycombe v Bournemouth.

AFA SENIOR CUP: First round: Alleyn OB 2 Nat West Bank 4, Brent 1 Southgate County 1; Brentham 0 O Owens 5; Cardinal Manning OB 4 Civil Service 4; Carshalton 6 O Wokingians 0, City of London WO v Haberdashers WO; Cuaco 2 Crouch End Vampires 6; Latymer OB 4 O Southallians 3; Lensbury 1 Glynn OB 0; O Aloysians 1 Lloyds Bank 0, O Bealonians 1 Wake Green 1; O Bromleians 6 O Esthameians 4; O Buckwellians 4 Enfield OG 5; O Chigwellians 0 Midland Bank 4; O Danes 0 O Salesians 3; O Foresters 0 O Ignatians 2; O Isleworthians 2 O Cholmeleians 2 O Kingsburians 3 O Finchleians 5, O Latymerians 4 O Salvatorians 3; O Minchendenians 2 O Parkonians 1; O Reptonian 2 East Barnet OG 3; O Stationers 11 O Camdenians 2; O Tollingtonians 1 Barclays Bank 3; O Vaughanians 6 Mill Hill Village 0; O Wilsonians 3 O Salopians 0; O Woodhouseians 2 Nottsborough 3; Polytechnic 4 O Meadonians 2; Shene OG 2 O Tenisonians 2; West Wickham 3 Ulysses 1, Witan 0 Alexandra Park 1.

NATIONAL

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Ynys Mon 2 Welshpool 3. Rhyl 1 Porthmadog 1

WELSH CUP: Third round: Briton Ferry 1 Inter Cable Tel 7; Caernarfon 0 Cefn Druids 0, Carmarthen 2 Ely 0; Connahs Quay Nomads 1 Goytre 1; Flint 0 Bangor 3; Haverfordwest County 2 Ebbw Vale 3; Holyhead Hotspur 2 Cwmbran 5; Knighton 4 Conwy 1; Lex XI 0 Barry 3; Llanwern 1 Treharris 0, Newtown 2 Treowen Stars 0; Porthcawl 3 Aberystwyth 4, Ton Pentre 5 Mold Alexandra 0; TNS 4 Ruthin 1; University Wales Cardiff 0 Caersws 4.

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora 2 Deveronvale 5; Buckie Thistle 1 Rothes 1; Clachnacuddin 3 Nairn County 1; Cove 3 Lossiemouth 0; Elgin 3 Keith 0; Fraserburgh 1 Forres Mechanics 1; Huntly 3 Fort William 2; Peterhead 5 Wick Academy 2

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards 1 Portadown 1; Glenavon 1 Coleraine 1, Glentoran 1 Ballymena 2; Linfield 0 Crusaders 0; Omagh 0 Cliftonville 1. First division: Ballyclare 0 Bangor 1: Dungannon Swifts 2 Carrick 1, Larne 3 Distillery 2; Newry 4 Limavady 1

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Derry 1 St Patricks Ath 1: Dundalk 1 Cork 0; Kilkenny 1 Shelbourne 3

POOLS CHECK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	3	[illegible]	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	3	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	3	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	3	1	1	1	3	1	1

FORECAST: Half-time: no claims required — winnings sent automatically — forecast is good, seven score draws and 16 no-score draws. Full-time: no claims required — forecast is low; 12 score draws and three no-score draws.

CARLING F.A. PREMIERSHIP

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Man Utd	15	6	1	0	23	4	3	3	2	13	8	31	+24
2 Blackburn	15	5	2	1	17	9	3	4	0	10	4	30	+14
3 Arsenal	15	5	2	0	18	3	2	4	2	12	14	27	+13
4 Leeds	15	4	1	3	13	11	4	1	2	10	6	26	+6
5 Chelsea	14	4	0	1	10	6	4	1	4	19	11	25	+12
6 Derby	14	5	2	0	17	5	2	0	5	11	15	23	+8
7 Leicester	15	3	4	2	11	8	3	1	2	8	6	23	+5
8 Liverpool	14	5	0	2	18	6	1	4	2	7	8	22	+11
9 Newcastle	12	5	2	1	12	9	1	1	2	4	7	21	0
10 Wimbledon	15	2	2	5	10	14	3	2	1	8	6	19	-2
11 A Villa	15	3	1	3	8	12	2	2	4	7	9	18	-6
12 Coventry	15	2	6	0	10	8	1	2	4	3	11	17	-6
13 C Palace	13	0	3	3	4	9	4	1	2	9	6	16	-2
14 Southmptn	15	4	1	3	13	10	1	0	6	5	13	16	-5
15 West Ham	14	4	0	1	10	4	1	1	7	8	20	16	-6
16 Sheff Wed	15	4	1	3	15	12	0	2	5	10	23	15	-10
17 Tottenham	14	3	2	2	7	7	0	2	5	4	14	13	-10
18 Bolton	14	1	4	1	3	3	1	3	4	7	18	13	-11
19 Barnsley	15	2	1	4	6	15	2	0	6	6	25	13	-28
20 Everton	14	3	1	3	11	11	0	2	5	5	12	12	-7

Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Nottm F	18	8	1	1	23	9	3	3	2	8	7	37	(31)
2 West Brom	18	7	1	1	10	3	4	3	2	12	10	37	(22)
3 Middlesbro	17	5	1	2	15	7	5	3	1	17	9	34	(32)
4 Swindon	19	7	2	1	18	8	3	2	4	8	16	34	(26)
5 Sheff Utd	17	5	3	0	15	6	3	5	1	10	8	32	(25)
6 Charlton	18	5	2	1	18	11	3	3	4	17	15	29	(35)
7 Stockport	19	5	4	0	18	9	3	1	6	12	16	29	(30)
8 Sunderland	18	3	4	2	12	8	4	2	3	14	13	27	(26)
9 Port Vale	19	4	4	2	13	7	3	1	5	12	16	26	(25)
10 QPR	18	5	3	1	13	8	2	2	5	10	20	26	(23)
11 Wolvrhmptn	18	5	4	0	16	8	2	1	6	5	12	26	(21)
12 Stoke	18	4	2	2	12	8	3	3	4	9	13	26	(21)
13 Bradford	19	4	4	2	10	10	2	4	3	7	8	26	(17)
14 Birmingham	19	3	3	3	8	5	2	4	4	10	11	22	(18)
15 Norwich	18	3	3	4	9	16	3	1	4	7	11	22	(16)
16 Tranmere	18	5	1	3	17	11	1	2	6	9	14	21	(26)
17 Bury	19	3	5	2	10	10	1	4	4	11	17	21	(21)
18 Ipswich	17	3	2	2	10	9	1	5	4	10	12	19	(20)
19 Crewe	19	2	2	6	10	15	3	1	5	12	15	18	(22)
20 Man City	18	3	3	4	14	10	1	3	4	7	11	18	(21)
21 Reading	19	3	2	5	14	18	1	4	4	3	12	18	(17)
22 Oxford Utd	19	3	3	3	10	10	1	2	7	11	18	17	(21)
23 Portsmth	17	2	2	5	12	17	1	3	4	8	11	14	(20)
24 Huddersfld	19	2	3	4	8	12	1	2	7	6	20	14	(14)

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Watford	19	7	1	1	17	7	7	2	1	16	5	45	(33)
2 Bristol City	19	8	1	1	19	7	4	2	3	13	9	39	(32)
3 Millwall	18	4	4	2	16	12	5	1	2	10	6	32	(26)
4 Northmptn	19	6	2	2	14	7	2	5	2	8	6	31	(22)
5 York	19	7	0	2	16	8	1	5	4	9	14	29	(25)
6 Chestrfld	19	5	3	1	13	8	2	5	3	8	9	29	(21)
7 Oldham	19	7	3	0	23	11	0	4	5	8	15	28	(31)
8 Blackpool	19	6	3	1	18	12	2	1	6	10	18	28	(28)
9 Bournemth	19	5	4	1	12	7	2	3	4	10	13	28	(22)
10 Wrexham	18	5	3	1	15	9	2	3	4	10	12	27	(25)
11 Fulham	19	5	4	1	13	6	2	2	5	9	13	27	(22)
12 Gillingham	19	5	3	1	13	9	2	2	6	11	17	26	(24)
13 Bristol R	19	3	1	5	12	14	3	6	1	13	11	25	(25)
14 Preston	19	4	1	4	9	7	3	3	4	13	10	25	(22)
15 Grimsby	18	4	3	2	13	6	2	3	4	8	12	24	(21)
16 Wycombe	19	4	4	1	14	9	1	2	7	13	23	21	(27)
17 Plymouth	19	3	4	2	16	12	1	4	5	8	15	20	(24)
18 Walsall	18	4	4	1	12	5	1	1	7	7	18	20	(19)
19 Wigan	18	4	3	2	18	16	1	1	7	6	15	19	(24)
20 Southend	19	4	4	2	9	9	1	0	8	9	26	19	(18)
21 Burnley	19	2	6	1	11	9	1	2	7	9	18	17	(20)
22 Brentford	19	4	2	3	14	11	0	3	7	5	21	17	(19)
23 Luton	18	3	1	6	12	19	1	4	3	5	9	17	(17)
24 Carlisle	19	2	2	5	7	14	2	2	6	16	21	16	(23)

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Lincoln	19	5	3	1	12	8	5	3	2	8	6	36	(20)
2 Peterboro	19	6	3	1	20	8	3	5	1	16	9	35	(36)
3 Exeter	19	4	5	1	13	9	5	2	2	15	11	34	(28)
4 Notts Co	19	4	3	2	11	9	5	4	1	15	10	34	(26)
5 Scunthrpe	19	4	4	1	12	8	5	2	3	16	14	33	(28)
6 Hartlpool	19	6	4	0	17	7	1	6	2	11	12	31	(28)
7 Barnet	19	4	3	3	15	11	4	2	3	14	15	29	(29)
8 Macclsfld	19	7	3	0	19	6	0	5	4	8	13	29	(27)
9 Rotherham	19	4	3	2	17	14	3	4	3	13	14	28	(30)
10 Scarboro	19	6	1	3	20	13	2	2	5	10	16	27	(30)
11 Chester	18	6	3	0	16	3	2	0	7	11	21	27	(27)
12 Colchester	19	5	3	2	16	11	2	3	4	11	14	27	(27)
13 Shrwsbury	19	6	0	3	16	12	1	5	4	15	17	26	(31)
14 Cardiff	19	2	6	2	10	11	3	5	1	9	7	26	(19)
15 Torquay	19	5	2	2	16	10	1	5	4	12	19	25	(28)
16 L Orient	19	4	3	3	10	9	2	3	4	9	10	24	(19)
17 Mansfield	19	4	3	2	19	14	2	2	6	6	10	23	(25)
18 Rochdale	19	6	1	2	16	5	1	1	8	8	19	23	(24)
19 Cambs Utd	19	3	4	2	16	14	1	5	4	10	13	21	(26)
20 Darlington	19	4	5	1	17	11	0	3	6	6	17	20	(23)
21 Swansea	18	3	2	4	7	7	2	0	7	13	22	17	(20)
22 Hull	19	3	3	3	17	18	1	0	9	6	19	15	(23)
23 Brighton	19	1	3	6	7	15	1	3	5	6	13	12	(13)
24 Doncaster	19	0	3	6	5	22	0	3	7	7	23	6	(12)

BELL'S LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

PREMIER DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Hearts	14	6	0	1	19	9	5	0	2	16	8	33	+18
2 Rangers	14	5	2	0	25	8	3	3	1	13	8	29	+22
3 Celtic	14	4	1	2	14	5	5	0	2	12	7	28	+14
4 Dundee Utd	14	3	1	2	14	6	2	3	3	13	18	19	+3
5 Dunfrlne	14	2	4	2	11	13	3	0	3	9	17	19	-10
6 St Johnstn	14	3	1	4	8	12	2	2	2	6	7	18	-5
7 Kilmarnck	14	2	0	4	5	12	2	2	4	8	19	14	-18
8 Hibernian	14	3	1	3	16	12	0	2	5	4	11	12	-3
9 Motherwll	14	0	2	5	6	13	3	1	3	13	13	12	-7
10 Aberdeen	14	1	3	3	7	11	1	2	4	7	17	11	-14

FIRST DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Dundee	14	4	2	2	11	5	5	1	0	11	3	30	+14
2 Hamilton	14	4	2	1	10	6	4	2	1	14	7	28	+11
3 Raith	14	4	1	1	9	3	3	2	3	10	10	24	+6
4 Falkirk	14	4	1	2	11	10	3	2	2	12	14	24	-1
5 Airdrie	14	2	4	1	9	9	2	3	2	6	10	19	-4
6 Ayr	14	3	1	4	15	11	1	2	3	5	9	15	0
7 G Morton	14	1	2	3	6	9	3	1	4	11	11	15	-3
8 St Mirren	14	2	2	2	6	8	1	2	5	7	14	13	-8
9 Stirling	14	1	4	3	9	12	1	1	4	9	13	11	-7
10 Partick	14	1	2	4	12	17	0	5	2	6	9	10	-8

SECOND DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Livingston	14	5	1	0	15	7	2	4	2	9	8	26	+9
2 Clydebank	14	3	4	1	13	6	3	3	0	8	4	25	+11
3 Stranraer	14	5	2	0	16	6	0	4	3	8	12	21	+6
4 Clyde	14	4	1	2	12	7	1	4	2	9	12	20	+2
5 Queen Of S	14	4	2	1	11	8	2	0	5	12	16	20	-1
6 Forfar	14	2	2	4	13	18	3	1	2	11	9	18	-3
7 East Fife	14	2	1	4	13	18	3	2	2	7	8	18	-6
8 Stenhsmuir	14	3	3	1	10	10	1	1	5	7	14	16	-7
9 Brechin	14	1	3	2	6	9	1	3	4	10	18	12	-11
10 Inverness CT.	14	1	4	2	8	7	1	1	5	15	16	11	0

THIRD DIVISION

	HOME						AWAY						Goal
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	diff
1 Ross Co	15	5	1	2	24	10	4	2	1	15	10	30	+19
2 Alloa	14	3	0	3	13	9	6	0	2	17	8	27	+13
3 East Stirling	14	6	0	2	20	8	3	0	3	7	10	27	+9
4 Arbroath	14	4	1	2	16	9	4	1	2	14	8	26	+13
5 Albion	14	5	1	1	13	5	2	2	3	11	9	24	+10
6 Queen's Pk	15	3	2	3	12	11	2	2	3	12	17	24	+3
7 Berwick	14	3	1	3	13	14	2	2	3	7	8	19	0
8 Dumbarton	14	0	4	2	8	10	3	1	4	8	14	17	-7
9 Montrose	14	1	1	5	9	15	1	2	4	15	17	14	-8
10 Cowdnbth	14	2	0	5	5	15	1	0	6	9	24	9	-21

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Hearts engaged in breaking dominance of Old Firm

KEVIN McCARRA

Scottish commentary

Tidings of Motherwell's equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Rangers on Saturday were met by Celtic supporters with the sort of glee that none of their own team's goals in a 4-0 victory over Dundee United could quite inspire. Such a reaction is born of rivalry, but the grip that each club has on the other is as much of an embrace as a stranglehold.

Despite the enmity, the followers of Rangers and Celtic are united by the agreement that their sides share a significance that leaves the other members of the Bell's Scottish League premier division as underlings. Over the decades, of course, there has been a dollop of justice in that smugness, but there is just a chance that Old Firm fans could suffer for their conceit this season.

With a boisterous 5-3 win over Kilmarnock at Tynecastle yesterday, Heart of Midlothian opened up a four-point lead over Rangers at the top of the table. Given the measure of conviction and verve shown to recover from the loss of a goal by Pat Nevin in the fifth minute, Jim Jefferies's side will probably not react to their lofty position with a bout of vertigo.

For the Old Firm, money is ordnance and, beyond Glasgow, there would be public chortling if Celtic and Rangers pounded one another to ruins while a cheaply-assembled Hearts side remained intact and took the title. So early in the season, such thoughts amount only to a daydream, but it is one that the Edinburgh club's supporters can now imagine in detail.

This was Hearts' tenth victory in 11 matches and there are practical reasons for the success that should continue to apply over the months ahead.

The club is always being issued with tiresome and superfluous reminders of the fact that 35 years have passed since a trophy was won, yet Hearts now appear capable of making a break with that glum past.

Their matches are even played within a symbol of rejuvenation. Tynecastle has been rebuilt on three of its sides, with the cost partly met by £6 million raised invested by city institutions. Attendances are on the rise and the club envisages the day when, as a matter of course, the stadium is filled whenever maroon jerseys take the field.

Tynecastle, with its 18,000 capacity, is a much smaller venue than Celtic Park or Ibrox, but Hearts are beginning to enjoy the atmosphere of anticipation and confidence that has so long underpinned the Old Firm. Jefferies also seems to have located men who are stimulated rather than intimidated by the expectation.

The manager has been obliged to shop wisely since Hearts, with an overdraft to reduce and bricks and mortar to purchase, have not been able to afford much cash for fripperies such as players. Yesterday, three of their goals came from Stephane Adam, who was signed from Metz, of France, for nothing, another was provided by Neil McCann, bought for only £250,000, and the scoring was rounded off by José Quitongo, the substitute, an £80,000 acquisition.

The match did not show Hearts at their most co-ordinated, but there was sufficient aptitude in attack to extricate them from the muddle created by an adventurous Kilmarnock. Adam brought the game level at 1-1, by heading in Stefano Salvatori's cross in the tenth minute. A lead was established 18 minutes later with a move that was both deft and direct.

McCann worked his way through with the aid of passes from Thomas Flogel and Steve Fulton before finishing at the near post. Adam glanced in the third goal, in the sixtieth minute, after David Weir had headed Salvatori's free-kick across the six-yard box.

Although Holt scored to reduce the deficit to 3-2, Hearts seemed capable of amassing whatever quantity of goals was required. Adam completed his hat-trick, after rapid passes by Weir and Flogel had opened space on the right, and although the visitors responded with a penalty that Mark Roberts converted, Quitongo took the margin of victory to 5-3 in the final minutes.

At full-time, *Zip-a-Dee-Do-Dah* blared merrily from the loudspeakers. Wonderful feeling, wonderful day. And more to come.

Jefferies: has bought wisely

FOOTBALL

Birmingham slide leaves Francis down on his luck

West Bromwich Albion 1
Birmingham City 0

By Russell Kempson

IT HAS not been a good week to be a Francis. At White Hart Lane on Wednesday, Gerry Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, finally gave up the impossible fight and resigned; at The Hawthorns yesterday, Trevor Francis, the Birmingham City manager, edged another step nearer a similar fate. If local gossip is to be believed, he may be assisted in his decision.

Birmingham have won only once in 14 matches in the Nationwide League first division, collecting nine points from a possible 42. They lie in fourteenth place, lodged in the nowhere land between a play-off place and relegation. More worryingly, Francis was given a vote of confidence by David Gold, the club chairman, on Monday.

Rumours abound, but talk is cheap. Francis is unlikely to be dismissed, even if the news is bad when Birmingham play against Portsmouth at home next week. Steve Bruce, the captain, is still perhaps a season away from accepting his first player-manager's job, whether it be at St Andrew's or farther afield.

Such unrest, though, helps nobody. "Certain sections of the media are trying to tear the club apart," Francis said, choosing his words carefully. "The board have said nothing to me. It is not what you hear during the week that matters, it is what you see at the weekend."

What the Birmingham fans witnessed was a third successive defeat, yet, perversely, it prompted a third successive standing ovation.

As in their previous games against Norwich City and Nottingham Forest, they did more than enough to have eased the pressure on Francis. They dominated from start to finish, led by the craft and urgency of Marsden in midfield, only to fall to a goal from Sneekes in the 83rd minute.

"We played with spirit, passed the ball well and created numerous chances," Francis said. "The first half was as one-sided a 45 minutes as I have seen since I've been at the club. When you're playing that well, you expect to go in two or three goals ahead. I was pleased with the performance, but very disappointed at the result."

Sneekes agreed. "They didn't deserve to lose, we were hopeless," he said. "We had all the luck today; maybe they'll get it next time." So did Ray Harford, the West Bromwich Albion manager, whose side limped almost apologetically into second place in the table. "They were better than us for most of the game," he said.

Birmingham would have gone in at half-time two or three goals ahead, but for the agility of Miller, the West Bromwich goalkeeper. On a cold, misty afternoon, he kept warm by saving from Bruce, Furlong and McCarthy. Robinson also half-volleyed over the crossbar when nicely positioned.

The trend continued after the interval, with McCarthy and Robinson involved in Birmingham's best work. Miller, though, was again unbeatable, tipping over Grainger's fierce free kick, pushing aside Furlong's deflected 20-yard drive and then clasping another long-range effort from Grainger.

West Bromwich competed more vigorously, yet lacked any genuine threat until Sneekes's low shot from the edge of the area slithered past Bennett. "We only need one chance," the home supporters crowed, adding to the sense of despondency in the blue corner.

Football club directors are not noted for their grasp of reality, but should perhaps dwell a while on the words of Gary Ablett, the Birmingham defender. "I hope they keep faith and realise we're on the right lines," he said. "We all feel for Trevor and want to help him get out of this."

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (4-4-2): A Miller — P Holmes, D Burgess, P Mardon, D Smith — I Hamilton, P Butler, R Sneekes, S Flynn (sub: L Hughes, 52min) — A Hunt, K Kilbane.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): I Bennett — J Bass, S Bruce, G Ablett, M Johnson (sub: P Devlin, 89) — J McCarthy, S Robinson, C Marsden, M Grainger — P Furlong, A Cottee (sub: P Ndlovu, 81)

Referee: S Bennett

Sneekes: late goal

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT

Hunt, the West Bromwich striker, goes past Robinson's sliding challenge in the West Midlands derby at The Hawthorns yesterday

Forest have the qualities for top level

Nottingham Forest................5
Charlton Athletic 2

By Nick Szczepanik

FEW people have any difficulty picturing Nottingham Forest in the FA Carling Premiership next season. The Nationwide League first division leaders, after all, have recent European experience, a manager with first-hand knowledge of what it takes to gain promotion and even a Holland international centre forward.

Charlton, on the other hand, although regularly praised by opponents, suffer from something of a credibility gap, which the game at the City Ground on Saturday only served to widen. "We let ourselves down," Alan Curbishley, their manager, said.

"We've come to Forest, who are top of the league, we're sixth and you don't get 5-2 scorelines in that situation — you put up a bit of a show. We went one down, then decided it was a five-a-side. We'd go up their end, try to score and let them go up our end to score."

On this form, Forest are the last team in the division with whom to attempt to trade goals. Stone may not be back to full fitness, but his speed of thought is intact and the one-touch play between him, Campbell and Van Hooijdonk prised Charlton apart. The passing of the visitors, although neat, looked leaden by comparison.

A diving header by Leaburn, saved at full stretch by Beasant, was a false dawn for Charlton. After 20 minutes, a vintage Forest counter-attack, reminiscent of the early days of Brian Clough, ended with Campbell setting up Van Hooijdonk, who struck the ball through Petterson's dive into the far corner.

Soon after half-time, the Dutchman collected a throw-in from Rogers to shoot in from 30 yards and he completed his hat-trick after Petterson saved a Campbell header: small wonder that Dave Bassett, the Forest manager, described it as his best game for the club.

In the last half-hour, the teams shared four goals, although it could have been ten. The home defenders ignored Brown's free kick (Allen did not): Woan scored twice — first for Forest, through a crowd, then, inadvertently, for Charlton, after Beasant had flapped in vain at a corner — and, with both defences in a state of nervous exhaustion, Campbell beat Petterson to a cross from Woan to head the fifth Forest goal.

"I've heard David [Bassett] say it was a little bit flattering," Curbishley said. "I don't think so. We competed with them for 20, 25 minutes and then all our defensive discipline went out of the window. It's ominous that when Forest don't play so well, they win one-nil: when they do play well, they win by five."

Forest now go to Middlesbrough on Wednesday for a true heavyweight bout, while the next game for Charlton is the visit on Friday of Swindon, who have also faltered recently: a battle between pretenders, surely, rather than contenders.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): D Beasant — D Lyttle, S Chettle, J Hjelde, A Rogers — S Stone, C Cooper, S Gemmill, I Woan (sub: C Bart-williams, 90min) — K Campbell, P van Hooijdonk.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Petterson — S Brown, R Rufus, P Chapple, Bowen (sub: A Barness, 86) — J Robinson, M Kinsella, K Jones (sub: S Jones, 74), M Holmes (sub: S Newton, 9) — B Allen, C Leaburn

Referee: C Foy

Umbro poised to keep contract

THE Football Association is expected to announce in the next fortnight that Umbro has retained the contract to supply the England kit. It was thought that Nike, the American company, Umbro's main rival in a fiercely contested market, was the favourite to take over the deal when the contract expired in the spring of 1999.

The commerical department of the FA, however, is believed to favour staying loyal to Umbro, which has had close links with the England team for more than a decade.

The agreement has yet to be finalised, but, depending on the length, it could be worth up to £15 million a year to the FA. Nike is understood to have bid around £150 million over ten years.

The chairmen of the Football League clubs seem certain to reject a proposal to reduce their first division to 18 clubs. A plan to cut both the FA Carling Premiership and the Nationwide League first division to 18 clubs, with just two being promoted and relegated each season, will be discussed by League chairmen at a meeting in London next month. The idea has been put forward by a League working party dealing with restructuring the whole organisation and its ideas will be put before an extraordinary general meeting of clubs in February.

David Sheepshanks, the chairman of the Football League, said: "A three-up, three-down system remains vital to the continued success and prosperity of the game in this country. The current agreement between the Football Association, the Premier League and the Football League remains binding."

Kennedy puts icing on the cake for Taylor

Northampton Town...............0
Watford..................................1

By Pat Gibson

GRAHAM TAYLOR is more painfully aware than most managers that there are times when things do not go according to plan. There was no disguising his pleasure, therefore, when his strategy for keeping Watford six points clear at the top of the Nationwide League second division worked to perfection.

Taylor knew that Northampton Town, one of the sides striving desperately to keep in touch, presented as formidable a challenge as his team had faced all season, especially since he was without three of his most influential players — Rosenthal and Jason Lee, the former Premiership strikers, and Millen, the central defender.

"We looked on this as a big game," he said. "A game that some people felt might find us out. We anticipated that we could be under a lot of pressure if we did not get our act together.

"The pleasure comes from the fact that the players followed everything to the letter. They had to think things out a little bit and realise that there is more to the game than just running around and doing their very best."

Taylor's tactics were based on leaving his three central defenders — Palmer, Page and Mooney — to cope with Northampton's three-man strike force of Heggs, Seal and Christian Lee, allowing his four midfield players to push forward at every opportunity and prevent the home side from building up a head of steam.

His masterstroke, however, was to deploy Peter Kennedy, normally a left-sided midfield player, in Rosenthal's role just behind the front two. Watford obviously missed Rosenthal's touch around the penalty area, but the move paid off handsomely in the 57th minute when Gibbs put over a telling cross for Kennedy to head his ninth goal of the season and eighth away from home.

It is a remarkable striking rate considering that Kennedy, a Northern Ireland B international, could not even get into the Notts County side on a regular basis last season. Taylor heard people saying how surprised they were that he had not made more of an impression in English football when he went to the Northern Ireland cup final in Belfast at the end of last season. He checked him out with Gerry Armstrong, the former Northern Ireland international, and bought him for £130,000 without ever having seen him play.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (5-2-3): A Woodman — I Clarkson (sub: A Gibb, 65min), I Sampson, C Hill, R Warburton, J Frain — D Peer, R Hunter — C Heggs, D Seal, C Lee (sub: K Wilson, 73).

WATFORD (3-4-1-2): A Chamberlain — S Palmer, R Page, T Mooney — N Gibbs, M Hyde, R Johnson, P Robinson — P Kennedy — G Noel-Williams, D Thomas.

Referee: J Robinson.

Notts retreat to the Comfort zone after a striking failure

Leyton Orient 1
Notts County...................1

By Bill Edgar

THOSE Notts County players upset at spurning a series of chances to send their team top of the Nationwide League third division on Saturday did not have far to go to seek comfort. Their opponents' chaplain, The Rev Alan Comfort, fully understands a footballer's frustrations in front of goal, his time at Leyton Orient having been spent on the wing and in prayer.

Comfort, a legend on the pitch during the 1980s, saw County's profligacy and a fine display by Paul Hyde, the Orient goalkeeper, produce parity. Sam Allardyce, the County manager, said: "I'm disappointed we didn't get the three points with all the clear-cut chances that we created. It needed a little bit more of a cool head in front of goal."

Those traditionalists concerned at English football's continental drift might have been horrified by the beating of three drums for much of the game. This regular sideshow at Brisbane Road typifies the entertainment-led approach of Barry Hearn, the Orient chairman and boxing promoter, as does the stadium announcer's Brazilian-style bellowing of "goal", which on Saturday greeted Harris's scrambled 71st-minute equaliser for Orient.

Harris, a 21-year-old striker cast off by Crystal Palace recently, showed enough raw talent to suggest that the club-record £600,000 that Orient received from County for John Chiedozie 16 years ago may be beaten in the next season or two.

The visitors had led for only four minutes through a majestic header by Farrell, which came shortly after two of his team-mates, Robson and Derry, had both failed to score with just the goalkeeper to beat.

The home supporters who shouted abuse at Hendon, the former Orient defender, can recycle those chants tomorrow when the team of the same name visits Brisbane Road for an FA Cup replay.

Tommy Taylor, the Orient manager, praised his side, saying: "The boys showed a lot of character. That's the best team we've played against this season."

Taylor also revealed that he had released Dave Regis, the striker whose name provides a reminder of Notts' dramatic fall from grace. Regis was among the scorers in County's Wembley play-off victory over Brighton that put them in the top flight six years ago.

LEYTON ORIENT (3-5-2): P Hyde — S Clark, S Hicks, M Warren — J Channing, M Ling, D Smith, P Linger (sub: J Baker, 69min), D Naylor — J Harris, A Inglethorpe.

NOTTS COUNTY (3-4-1-2): D Ward — M Redmile, G Strodder, I Richardson — I Hendon, S Derry, I Barraclough, S Finnan — M Robson — S Farrell, G Martindale (sub: J Jackson, 55; sub: P Robinson, 83).

Referee: M Bailey

Venables happy with draw for Australia

TERRY VENABLES, the Australia coach, praised the spirit shown by his side in their 1-1 draw with Iran in the World Cup qualifying match in Tehran.

A goal by Harry Kewell, the Leeds United forward, gave Australia an early lead and, although Iran equalised before half-time and subjected his side to heavy second-half pressure, Venables remained confident for the return at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Saturday.

"It's important that you stand your ground. If you lose your courage, you could fold under, and they didn't." Venables said. "We got a result and we got a goal. We've got to be satisfied with that."

Khodadad Azzizi, of Cologne, scored the equaliser for Iran and the home team provided several more testing moments for Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper. A crowd of 128,000 in the Azadi Stadium gave the Iran team tremendous support and Bosnich said: "It was a super atmosphere tonight, maybe one of the noisiest crowds I have experienced."

Venables praised the contribution of Bosnich. "He had no chance at all for the goal and he made his saves well. We knew that he was an excellent goalkeeper and he proved it. This was always going to be rough. The most experienced players would have found a game like this difficult to deal with."

Vladir Vierra, the Iran coach, remains confident that his team can win the second leg. "We'll score at least one goal in Melbourne," he said.

Karim Bagheri, the Iran midfield player, will be available for the return after missing the first match because of suspension.

Ely rise to challenge posed by chairman's view of history

Ely City 1
Worcester Athletico 0

By Walter Gammie

COMMEMORATED in a display cabinet in the clubhouse at the Unwin Ground is the day that dominates the history of Ely City Football Club, when the Robins of Cambridgeshire played Torquay United in the first round of the FA Cup.

Taking pride of place is the original of the Roy Ulyett cartoon that depicted the City supporter who drank the bottles that allowed a brewery to donate beer crates to afford extra vantage points for spectators packed into the club's former Paradise Ground.

The precious memento was secured by Doug Unwin, the president, 60 years at the heart of a club that Harry, his father, had served for as long before him. The naming of the club's new home was easy.

Times since that day in 1956 — glorious even in a 6-2 defeat — have not always been so good, but before Ely took on Worcester Athletico in an FA Carlsberg Vase second-round tie, Unwin quietly suggested that the team assembled by Dave Pinkowski and Tony Lyes was the best that he had seen at the club for some time.

Ely won the Jewson Eastern Counties League first division last season and sit comfortably in the top six of the premier division. Brian Jordan, the chairman, however, said that beating Athletico would "match anything" achieved since that lone foray into the FA Cup first round.

The chairman's wish was delivered in the grand manner with a flying header by Martin Pammenter in the last minute from a cross by Graham Retallick, after Ely had taken control of a second half that developed into a one-man contest between Mathew Eden and Jason Print, the Athletico goalkeeper, who pulled off a clutch of fine saves.

Athletico — the final vowel is to avoid any confusion with Worcester Athletic Club — with whom they share Nunnery Wood Sports Complex, adopted the name last year to sever their roots as Upton Town. As Ely had in 1986, they moved because they could not develop their home and, for four seasons, had shared Malvern Town's ground.

The defeat was only Athletico's second of a season in which they have flourished in the Midland Combination, but, at the third time of asking, they have at least broken their Vase duck and fully entered into the spirit of a competition that continues to supply new adventures and new friends.

ELY CITY (4-4-2): G Cowling — G Retallick, M Leonard, A Beattie, N O'Donohue — M Cook, M Pammenter, I Evason, M Eden — G Chandler, S McKenna.

WORCESTER ATHLETICO (4-4-2): J Print — C Nesbitt, S Grubb, S Cotterill, M Lowe — M Henning, C Wright (sub: B Pallett, 71min), M Gledhill, G Burrow — D Taitt, S Judge

Referee: I Conway.

هكذا من الاصل

Confident Inverdale makes seamless transfer

MATTHEW BOND

◆

TV ACTION REPLAY

When I spoke to Philip Bernie on Friday, the precise running order of tonight's *On Side* was looking just a little fluid. *Which is exactly how Bernie*, editor of John Inverdale's new sports chat show, likes it.

Out, for instance — and for the nicest of reasons — was Peter O'Sullevan, whose commentary career passes the winning post for the final time at Newbury *this weekend*. Seems his colleagues on *Grandstand* have something special planned. In, possibly. was Wasim Akram, with his thoughts on how to beat the West Indies — if he was in the country. But in *definitely* is John Fashanu, *giving his first* interview since being acquitted of corruption. No way were they going to let that little exclusive get away.

Alongside Fashanu will be David Lloyd, the England cricket coach; Sally Gunnell; *Kelly Holmes;* Tony Banks, the Sports Minister, and anyone else who the production team thinks captures the moment. For the first programme, that meant a live link to Jacques Villeneuve, the newly-crowned Formula One *champion, and last week the* communication satellites were humming again, as Inverdale talked rugby union with Grant Fox in the studio and David Campese in Sydney. Tonight's target could be a little closer to home, however, *if they can persuade Christian* Gross to say a few words after Spurs against Crystal Palace.

A lesser interviewer might be blinded by either the stars or the technology, but not Inverdale. Once the *Twin Peaks*-style theme music has come to the end, the dry ice has cleared and he has given us a gallop through the running order, he gets politely and good-humouredly stuck in.

Was men's tennis boring, he asked Greg Rusedski? Was it good tactics, he asked Campese, *for* Australia to go into the match against England without a goal-kicker or anyone who could throw the ball in straight? Did you hit Naseem Hamed, he asked Chris Eubank on the first show. And no doubt he will be *after Hamed's version when* the boxer appears on the final show in a couple of weeks' time. Yet, having been impressed by all that, it's an interview style that surely faces its biggest test tonight when he talks to a man who has only ever said two words about the match-fixing allegations that brought him to court. "Not guilty."

Fashanu apart, it is a technique that already seems to be *working* and winning over those who doubted he could make the jump from radio to television. The programme is attracting between 2½ and three million viewers, not bad for a show that goes out at 10.40pm on a Monday and has to follow *Panorama*. With only another couple to go in the present run, the BBC is impressed enough to have ordered another eight for the spring.

But Inverdale is only one of the reason's for the show's warm reception. There is also the calibre of the guests, which looks set to continue with *names* such as Christie, Henman, McEnroe and Gascoigne pencilled in for the next couple of weeks. Then there is the quality of the research that aims to ensure that even the *most* familiar interviewees produce something unusual.

Some they lose ("weren't you brought up by a nun, Frankie?" Dettori: "No.") but *most* they win, including last week's chat with Damon Hill, enlivened by the unlikely combination of vintage Bruce Forsyth and the out-takes from a pizza commercial. Mind you, the presence of Eddie Jordan, roaring into the row over Formula One and tobacco sponsorship, helped a bit too.

To my mind, however, one of the most impressive *things* about the show is *its even*-handedness. In the days when it is rare for one television channel to acknowledge that a rival broadcaster even exists. *On Side* approaches sports and guests on merit, regardless of whether the BBC has the television rights or not.

There was a wobbly moment last week when the show plugged three BBC events in under five minutes — Scotland versus Australia on *Grandstand*, the RAC rally coverage on BBC2 and *Sports Personality of the Year*, but this was against the run of play. By that time, Inverdale had already had a long chat with Rusedski, who, with the notable exception of Wimbledon, plays most of his tennis on Eurosport and whose finest hour, at the US Open, came on Sky. He had just finished talking to Fox and Campese, mainly about England's games with Australia and the All Blacks, both of which were *shown by Sky and* ITV, and he finished the evening talking to Hill, who if he comes good next season with Jordan will be coming good for ITV.

Talking of *Sports Personality of the Year*, the big talking point this year is whether the great British sporting public can bring themselves to vote for Canadians. They have a choice of two. Otherwise, it's Henman against Hamed, they say. Those cosy chats with Inverdale could yet prove crucial.

'I respect every football manager . . . it is an awful job, a horrible job, yet it is the best job in the world'

Aspiring to rejoin working class

Pleat was at Selhurst Park at the weekend, unable to hide a burning ambition to return to the game that had rejected him 13 days earlier. Photograph: Adrian Sherratt

MICHAEL CALVIN

David Pleat scurried through the shadows, ignoring the roar from Selhurst Park, which signalled another ominous Manchester United victory. He was insulated from the passion and pressures of the occasion, but mugged by reality the moment he switched on the car radio.

A breathless scoreflash from Hillsborough confirmed that Guy Whittingham had *simultaneously* completed Sheffield Wednesday's win over Arsenal. Pleat sank back into the passenger seat and crushed a boardroom pass in *his right hand as* he clenched his fists in a reflex action of rage and relief.

"I'm pleased for Guy," he said, breaking a brief but oppressive silence. "Nice man. Great worker. It's Sod's Law, isn't it? I could have written the script myself. That's my team. I signed every one of them. I should be there. It's too frustrating for words, awful, but I've got to forget it. It's gone."

Diverted by unseen dramas, we quickly became lost in the urban sprawl of South London. "Are you trying to save me from a miserable evening at home?" he chuckled. "I'll be dead tonight. I've not won or lost. I've no emotion to feed off. I don't know if I can live like that. I might be like a gambler who just has to have his bet."

Saturday, the thirteenth day of Pleat's latest spell as an unemployed football manager, had begun with a plea for advice from one of his former players, an aspiring coach who had just been demoted. Pleat then opened a letter, informing him that his 12 original shares in Leicester City were worth in excess of £1,000.

The irony of an unsolicited bonus, from another club that had dispensed with him, was lost during a subsequent exchange of telephone calls with Wednesday officials. He is still fighting for compensation, due on a contract that was extended only last February. *Such un*dignified wrangles offer a more telling insight into professional football than the manager-of-the-month trophy that adorns a dis*play cabinet* in Pleat's bungalow, on the outskirts of Luton.

The inevitability of the sack does not lessen its impact. Even Pleat, at 52 one of the most widely respected of English managers, found his first day out of work "frightening". He drove his wife to their flat in Sheffield, only to find they did not have sufficient packing cases to move their belongings.

He then "tried to put on a reasonable face" and travelled to Hillsborough to say his farewells. His coaching staff were being retained, but were fretful. "Of course, losing your job is a blow to your ego, but it affects so many other people," Pleat reflected.

Pleat is too honest to hide the hurt. Conciliatory gestures by David Richards, the Wednesday chairman, merely irritated untreated wounds. "He said that he'd make sure that I'd be treated properly and that he wanted to be able to look me in the eye, but I've heard all that before," Pleat said. "I call the sack the dirty deed. It's too easy to change the manager and ignore the consequences."

Pleat, a stranger in his own home, was quickly ambushed by domesticity. The kitchen was flooded because he couldn't locate the stopcock when a plumber put a nail through a water pipe. He had to buy, and learn to operate, a fax machine to cope with agents who requested his managerial CV. He discovered that he had unnecessarily been paying two sets of council tax.

The freemasonry of football management ensured that his phone rang incessantly. The prevailing mood, that he was a victim of unrealistic ambition after Wednesday's ascent to seventh place in the Premiership last season, was crystallised by a call from George Graham, the Leeds United manager.

"He told me that I'd been a bit too clever last season, that I'd probably got a few too many points," Pleat said. "But I'm glad we did well. They can't take that away from me, although they tried, because by giving me the sack they besmirched my reputation.

"What hurts most is that I've been a responsible manager. So many people have said that I should have spent much more of their money, instead of planning long-term. There are those in every club who work against you behind your back, but I've never knowingly done anyone down."

The fleeting despair was dispelled *by his most valued call*, from Alex Ferguson, whose team triggered his dismissal by thrashing Wednesday 6-1 at Old Trafford. He woke Pleat just before eight o'clock on the morning of his return from United's European Cup Champions' League match at Feyenoord. "You OK, pal?" went the conversation. "Ah, Alex," Pleat replied. "The six goals were just too much for them to bear."

Pleat's lined faced lightened as he considered Ferguson's obsessional nature. Ferguson had slept for barely four hours that morning and was determined to be first to United's training ground.

The same instincts prompted Ferguson to arrive at Selhurst Park with the kit, five hours before the kick-off on Saturday.

"What a man," Pleat said. "I pride myself on my ability to recall *incidents and to sum up players*, but he has a top, top brain. Just look at the character of some of those younger United players. Look at how they apply themselves. That's down to Alex. Some people might think that he cost me my job, but he's not my enemy. He's a brother, a friend.

"Managers are a band of brothers as far as I am concerned. I don't begrudge big fat Ron [Atkinson] anything. Good luck to him. Our careers have followed parallel paths. He's a character, a kindly man. I respect every manager because I know what he goes through. He's insecure, worried. It's an awful job, a horrible job, yet it is the best job in the world."

Pleat is concerned that outstanding young managers, such as Alan Buckley, of Grimsby Town, and John Ward, at Bristol City, will be frustrated by football's reluctance to gamble in the age of corporate *finance. Yet such wider issues pale* alongside pressing personal problems.

"You going to Spurs?" Wimbledon's car-park attendant asked, voicing the unspoken thoughts of fans who whispered "there's Pleat" as he made his way to the directors' box. Pleat is, undeniably, interested in the scope of the role of director of football proposed by the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, Alan Sugar, but has yet to have any contact with him.

"I'm staying close to the phone," he said on Saturday night, when Colin Murphy called before flying to Vietnam, where he manages the national team. By that time, Pleat was cradling a glass of red wine and planning to catch the Spanish League match between Atlético Madrid and Valencia on satellite television.

"I feel helpless because I need to know what's going on, but I'm in *no position to use that knowledge*," he mused. "You never doubt yourself, but someone still has to give you another opportunity before you can prove anything, don't they? I know it sounds so daft, but all I want to do is work . . ."

SPORTS LETTERS

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They should include a daytime telephone number.

e-mail to:
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In defence of referees

From Mr B. V. O'Toole

Sir, Before accusing Premiership referees of "incompetence, inconsistency and . . . bias, and suggesting that they should be charged with bringing the game into disrepute", Mr Benjamin (Sports Letters, November 17) might have paused to consider that these officials are the cream of the crop, being the elite of some 50,000 referees in England.

It takes at least 12 years' active refereeing to reach the top of the pyramid system *as it* is known. En route, the official must first gain 1 status, then attain club/assessors' marks placing him near the top of perhaps 100 other referees in his supply league (eg, Suburban), contributory league (eg, Isthmian) and panel *league* (eg, Conference) before moving into the Football League and finally the Premiership. Most do not progress to the higher levels.

Like players, referees are capable of human error in the context of this fast-moving competitive game which calls for split-second judgment and decisions. They cannot be in all parts of the field of play at the same time and cannot hope to get a good view of every incident that occurs. Absolute consistency could be achieved if referees remained perfectly positioned within five to ten yards of *the ball* throughout games, including for example immediately after it has been kicked 50 yards across the field, which is physically impossible; it could be achieved provided they applied the laws of the game to the letter, which would involve the abandonment of all common sense, ie, the occasional discretion not to penalise to avoid a palpably unfair result.

The worst accusation, that of bias, is unsupported by evidence or examples. If it were seriously suspected of any referee by the Premiership executive he would be immediately suspended: if it were proven before the FA he would probably never referee again.

There is an existing system for monitoring the performance of all Premiership officials: they are routinely assessed and removed from the list at the end of the season if their performances are not consistently high. Nothing extra is needed.

Yours faithfully
BARTHOLOMEW V. O'TOOLE
(Referee with the Amateur Football Alliance),
Mitre Court Chambers,
Temple,
London EC4.

Unpleasant crowd behaviour at Wembley

From Mr Jonathon Metliss

Sir, At the England v Cameroon game I was with my daughter, niece and two South African friends sitting in Block 248, which is on the halfway line just above the Royal Box.

This is one of the best areas in the ground, and I was surprised to be sitting behind a unpleasant group who were shouting: "No surrender to the IRA" periodically throughout *the game. This is a well-known* National Front/Combat 18 chant. In addition, adverse comments were made about black spectators, and they also seemed somewhat the worse for wear for drink.

I did not say anything at the time, as I was reluctant to provoke any sort of altercation *especially* with my daughter there. *Having said* that, I really wonder how these people get into the better areas of the ground and why their behaviour is tolerated, more especially bearing in mind what happened in Rome.

Notwithstanding what happened there, and the general outcry against this type of behaviour, why is it that the relevant authorities appear to do little or nothing to improve the spectator conditions at high-profile matches such as these?

Yours sincerely
JONATHON METLISS,
222 Grays Inn Rd, London WC1.

From Mr Phillip Pellow

Sir, We know that all referees will make errors, and we should accept this. However, the crucial decisions, the ones on which the games turn and ultimately tournaments are won or lost, cannot any longer *be left to* chance.

Technology has progressed to such an extent that we can now, with vitual certainty, make all of these crucial decisions without error, by using the technology available. I suggest that if there is an attack *where there is* a close offside decision, the players should play on until the ball is out of play. The referee would acknowledge the linesman's flag, but signal that play should continue. If subsequently the ball goes dead, for a goal kick or throw-in for example, then play can continue. If, however, there is subsequently a goal or penalty, then the referee can call for the fourth official to judge whether the goal or penalty should sund. Similarly, if there is an appeal for a penalty, but the referee is unsighted, then he would play on until the ball goes dead, and then call for an adjudication.

In an average match, there would be very few stoppages *for this purpose*, and I suspect that overall there would be an average of one to three minutes added to playing time. So what? If the game becomes fairer, all well and good. And the decisions thus made would not be the subject of so much aggravation on the terraces and between the players.

Perhaps the most important consequence would be that the credibility of referees would be greatly enhanced.

Yours sincerely
PHILLIP PELLOW,
46 Courtenay Avenue,
Waterloo,
Liverpool 22.

Warren's version

From Mr Frank Warren

Sir, Your article, "*Duff hears* toll of final bell" (November 13), stated that Mickey Duff "blames Sky Television and Don King for his demise. King teamed up with Warren when Mike Tyson came out of prison and told Sky that it could have Tyson if it took a package of shows that he intended to put on with Warren."

In fact, King and I signed an agreement in September 1994. Up to that time I had been regularly promoting fights on ITV, which included such fighters as Paul Hodkinson, Colin McMillan, Naseem Hamed, Frank Bruno, Cristanto Espana, Derek Williams, Sean Murphy and many others. At that time ITV was not interested in Tyson, who was in prison.

Hamed, Bruno and Duke McKenzie left Duff and signed contracts with me long before my agreement with King, and ITV broadcast their fights. In April 1995, at the end of my agreement with ITV, I agreed terms with BSkyB for them to broadcast my promotions, which included fighters I had contracted with, including Bruno, Hamed, Nigel Benn, Steve Robinson and Robbie Regan. Tyson's comeback fight was not broadcast live by Sky, but was screened as a delayed transmission and via closed circuit in cinemas.

Regards,
FRANK WARREN,
Sports Network Europe,
Centurion House,
Bircherley Green, Hertford.

We accept the points made by Mr Warren and are happy to put the record straight.

Tactical victory

From Mr Charlie Loretz

Sir, Neil Back claimed that the England Emerging Players were defeated by the the illegal tactics of the All Blacks.

As a sporting Kiwi I would apologise if he is correct. In our defence I point out that although we had our suspicions back here in NZ, we did not realise that *the scoring of* tries in the UK had actually been outlawed.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLIE LORETZ,
15 MacNay Way,
Murrays Bay,
North Shore City,
Auckland, NZ.
charlie.loretz@xtra.co.nz

Happy days

From Mr D Hales

Sir, Congratulations to Tim! However, I was the first tennis *player to compete in two* tournaments on the same day — and win both. In August 1953, at 2pm, I won the men's final at West Worthing, used my prize-money (£5) for the rail fare to London, where, at 5pm, I won the London Parks men's final at Queen's Club — no prize-money as far as I remember. Happy days!

Yours ruefully,
DENNIS HALES,
Beethoven, Cheapside Lane,
Denham Village, Bucks.

This week in
THE TIMES

■ **Tomorrow**
Have Tottenham given their new manager a winning start against Crystal Palace?

■ **Wednesday**
Has Colin McRae driven home his advantage in the RAC rally?

■ **Thursday**
Who will replace Martin Johnson in the *England rugby* union team to play South Africa?

■ **Friday**
Manchester United close in on the European Cup quarter-finals.

■ **Saturday**
Football Saturday: the Premiership match-by-match. Oliver Holt, Frank Leboeuf and Danny Baker.

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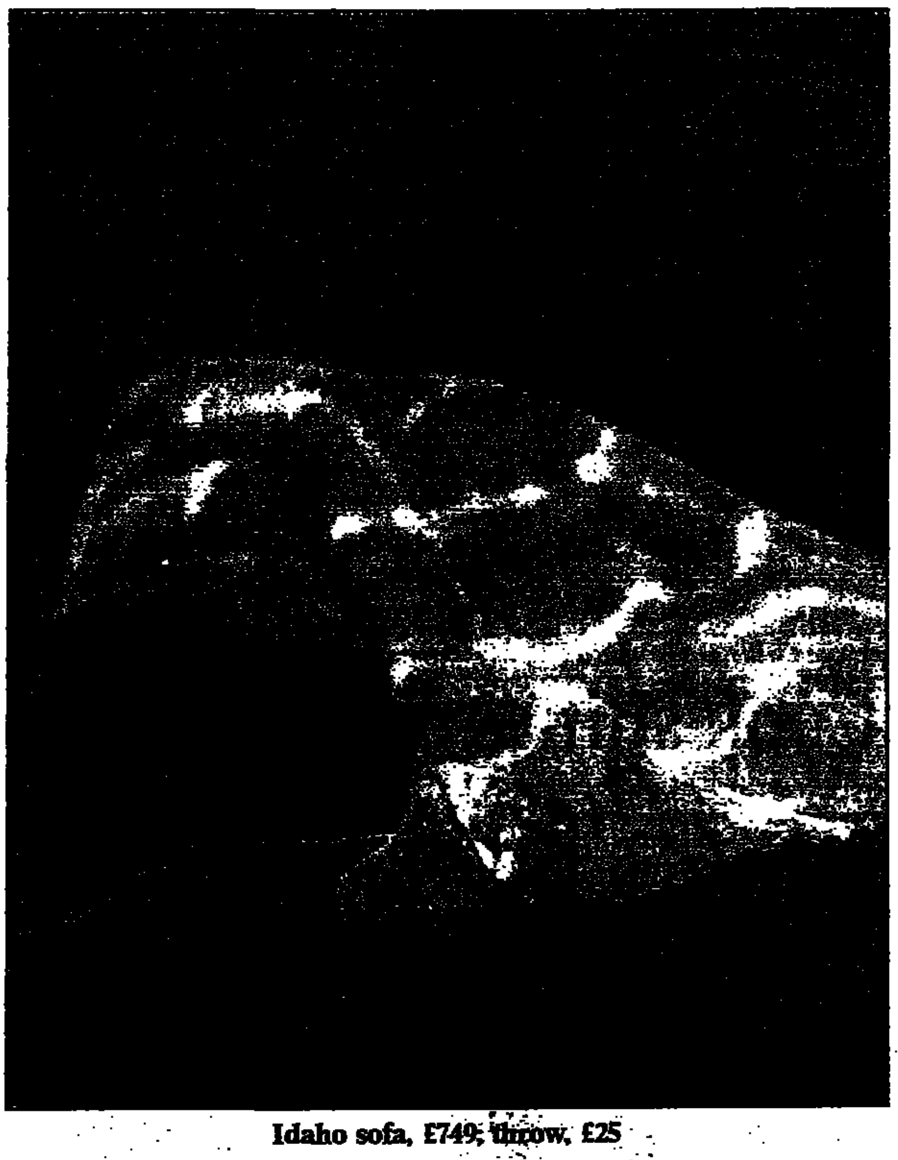

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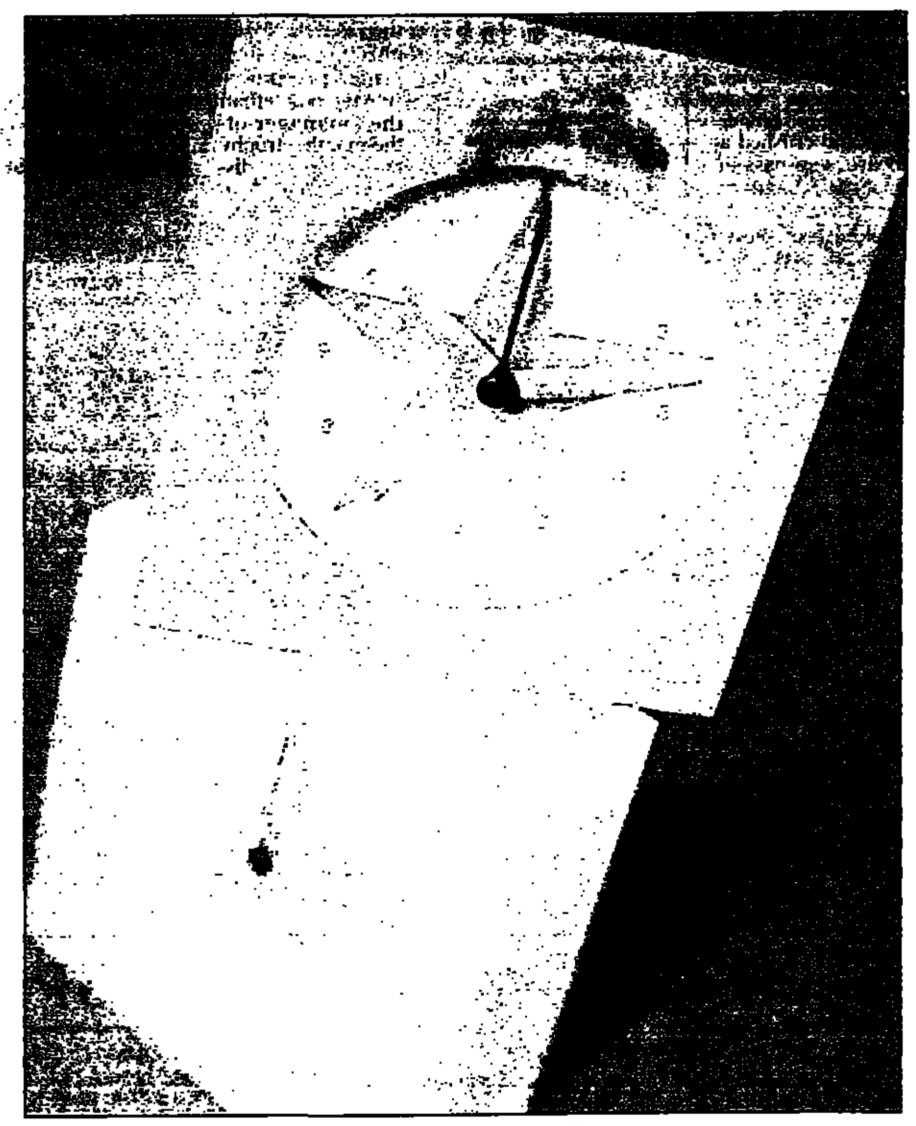

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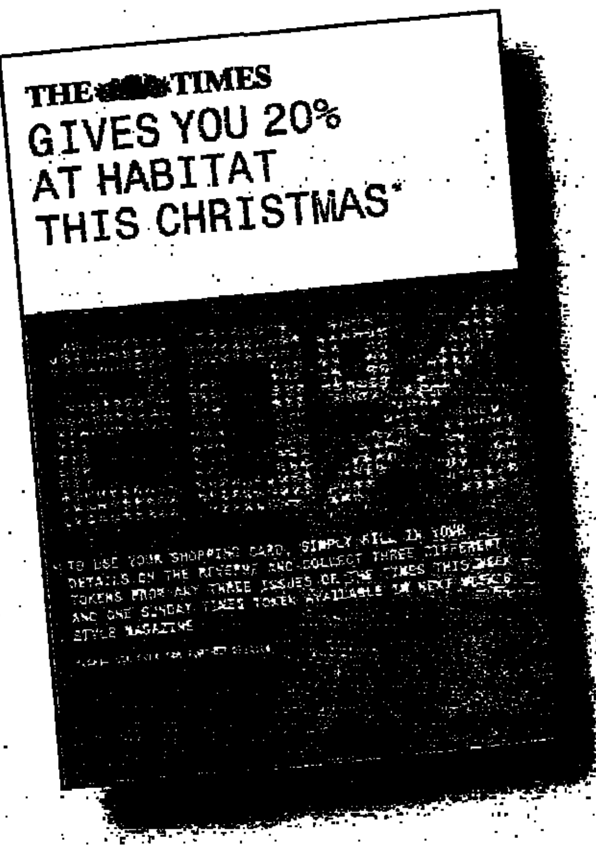

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CHANGING TIMES

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CRICKET

West Indies left scraping from an empty barrel

MICHAEL HENDERSON

says a once mighty team lies in ruins

The theft of Courtney Walsh's bat from the West Indies team hotel last week was highly symbolic. "Don't worry, you'll get it back at the end of the tour," a guard reassured him. By then, Walsh may need a bit more than a plank of willow with which to defend himself. One thing is certain. As if he didn't already know, he cannot rely on his players.

Somebody eventually found the bat, in a village 50 miles from Peshawar, where West Indies surrendered the first Test of the series against Pakistan inside 3½ days. This is frontier country, where bandits thrive, so Walsh was lucky to get it back.

The wretched condition of West Indies cricket, of which the first Test supplied the latest evidence, makes a sad spectacle. The team that battered all others into submission for 15 years is now itself a target for battery, and the players do not appear to have the stomach for the fight.

The defeat, by the overwhelming margin of an innings and 19 runs, marks the latest staging-post of a journey into decline and, if it is not arrested soon, the road can lead only to despair. Truly, West Indies cricket has entered the long, dark night of the soul.

In a way, it was appropriate that the men who watched helplessly as their players disgraced themselves were Clive Lloyd, the team manager, and Malcolm Marshall, the coach. Lloyd was the captain of that formidable team of the recent past and Marshall was a prince among fast bowlers. In their own playing days, neither man would have tolerated such a shambles.

Publicly, Lloyd is conceding nothing. He does not think the result reflected the ability of the team and is looking forward to watching his players bounce back in the two remaining Tests. His private views would be more illuminating, because there is a woeful lack of class in this party.

"People expect West Indies to be fighters, to be professional about their cricket," Lloyd said. Indeed they do, but there's naught here for his comfort.

Four players — Stuart Williams, David Williams, Simmons and Lewis — are not Test class. Only Lara and Chanderpaul, among the batsmen, are good enough. Hooper, for all his gifts, is a dead loss, and Campbell is an ordinary Joe. The fast bowlers, who have kept them afloat for three years, are ageing.

The problem starts at the top, where Walsh, a wholehearted trier, lacks real authority. The world waits for Lara to take over, nobody more impatiently than Lara himself, and if West Indies lose this series, he will almost certainly be promoted when England visit the Caribbean in January.

The selectors recommended that Lara bring the team here, but they were overruled by the Board of Control. In fairness, Lara's conduct on and off the field in the past couple of years has not commended him for leadership, but there is no alternative. He is the only player sure of his place.

The problems go deeper than a single defeat, however chastening. West Indies, who used to replenish their stock from the ranks of the young, no longer have sufficient players of the necessary quality. Australia have replaced Border, Boon, McDermott and Hughes — and prospered. South Africa are introducing good young men to their side. Pakistan have got them by the half-dozen and even England have a couple. In the Caribbean, they have nobody.

Since Ambrose and Bishop joined the team ten years ago, they have produced no fast bowlers. They have found only one batsman, Lara, since Desmond Haynes emerged 20 years ago and you have to go back to Lance Gibbs, who retired 23 years ago, for a spinner worthy of the name.

Crucially, so far as West Indies are concerned, slow bowling is a foreign tongue. The modern game, in which wrist spinners play a good hand, is ignoring them and the depth of that ignorance was apparent as Mushtaq Ahmed bowled them out twice without ever needing to be at his best.

Time and events have stripped this team of its strength. Australia beat them in the Caribbean in 1995 and the amateurs of Kenya landed that astonishing World Cup punch last year in Pune. Last winter in Australia, they lost more convincingly than the 3-2 outcome indicates.

It seems that only on poor pitches can they beat decent teams and, a year from now, Walsh and Ambrose will not be around to help them. However diligent a coach Marshall is, he cannot take wickets from the dressing-room. Nor can Lloyd make runs from his hotel suite.

There could be no better time for England to go to the Caribbean. David Lloyd will make the usual noises about the challenge ahead and, of course, every tour presents its own problems. This one will be no different: after all, England have not won there for 30 years.

Yet, on recent evidence, they have nothing to fear. The West Indies' ship is crippled. All they can do now is search for survivors.

Jubilant Cook finished with figures of seven for 75 in his first Test match for Australia

Cook shines on Test debut

By Our Sports Staff

AUSTRALIA emphasised the depth of their resources once again yesterday when Simon Cook, the New South Wales fast bowler, produced a devastating spell on his debut to win the second Test against New Zealand in Perth.

He ensured victory by an innings and 70 runs — and a 2-0 lead in the three-match series — with five for 20 off 32 balls, during which he exploited cracks in a wearing pitch.

New Zealand were bowled out for 174 in their second innings after scoring just 217 in their first innings on what was then an excellent pitch. Australia made 461.

Resuming on the fourth day on 69 for three, New Zealand lost their last seven wickets in 145 minutes for the addition of 105 runs. The sole figure of resistance was Adam Parore, who extended his overnight 42 to 63, an innings that lasted almost three hours, during which he struck ten fours.

Cook, 25, a controversial replacement for Glenn McGrath, who was injured, finished with figures of five for 39 for the second innings and seven for 75 for the match. It was the first time an Australia bowler had claimed five wickets on his debut since Tony Dodemaide's six for 58 against New Zealand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1987-88.

Mark Taylor, the Australia captain, was pleased to complete an eighth successive series victory, but said he anticipated a much greater challenge in the three-Test series against South Africa, starting in Melbourne on Boxing Day. "The series over there earlier this year was tough enough, but this will be even tougher," he said. "I know they are very keen to beat us, so I am expecting tougher opposition."

Stephen Fleming, the New Zealand captain, said: "All the way through we have underachieved and that is an alarming aspect. There has got to be some soul-searching. At the moment, it is hard to see light at the end of the tunnel, but we have the one-day international series here to look forward to."

New Zealand's opening game in the limited-overs series is against South Africa in Adelaide on December 6. The third Test starts in Hobart on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Tim May, the president of the Australian Cricketers' Association, said yesterday that the players would not strike over their pay dispute with the Australian Cricket Board.

Talent blooms in traditional rugby hothouse

By Gerald Davies

GWYN JONES, the Cardiff flanker, looks set to be the Wales captain against New Zealand at Wembley on Saturday, after being introduced to the role on Wales's tour to the United States in the summer and which continued against Romania and Tonga.

If the constitution of the back row of the scrum also includes Nathan Thomas, of Bath, as has been the case in the past two internationals, these two players will continue a distinguished line of an exceptional tradition. They are both former pupils of Llandovery College.

In all, the college, which is celebrating its sesquicentenary year, can claim to have produced 40 players who have won senior international rugby honours for Wales. With their former pupils, T. A. Rees and E. J. Lewis, having appeared in the original Wales international fixture against England at Blackheath in the 1880-81 season and getting trounced, no school in Wales can boast a similar lineage.

Furthermore, it is improbable that any school can have had so many of its former pupils play rugby for their country. With education policy in constant state of change, it cannot be imagined that such a period of association will ever be equalled.

"The boys are aware," the college warden and headmaster, Dr Claude Evans, said, "of the great rugby tradition to which they belong. Maintaining it means a great deal to them."

Other schools throughout Wales, which, for generations, formed the bedrock upon which rugby flourished, have relinquished their traditional function and lost their sporting reputation. Famous state grammar schools have disappeared, been amalgamated or have had their names and responsibilities changed without anything remotely as successful put in their place. A tradition, however flawed, was ruined, a rung in the ladder to excellence removed.

While this may generally have been the case, in a little corner of Wales the old traditions largely remain. From Monmouth School at its eastern most point through Christ College, Brecon and onwards along the A40 to Llandovery College, the principles are intact.

To the North, they are found in Rydal, too. The independent schools have survived the strictures of the national curriculum and have maintained their historical role in promoting school sport. If the sense of pride and identity that a school portrayed, if the sense of discipline and aspirations which was often represented in a school's sporting efforts, and which a community respected, has partly gone out of fashion, the rivalry that attaches to the fixtures between these independent establishments remains vibrant.

Llandovery College are experiencing a particularly good period. Last season, they won 16 of their 19 fixtures. If they felt proud of their success against their near-neighbours, Monmouth and Brecon, and, further afield, Rydal, they also felt a sense of huge achievement in securing a singular victory against Millfield and in taking Colston's 2½-year unbeaten record. This season, after the slow start, they have won ten of their 13 matches.

"The college is a fine breeding ground for first-class and international players — it is a rugby hothouse, if you like" Iestyn Thomas, the master in charge of rugby at the school, said.

Standards were already in place when three old Llandoverians — Cliff Jones, Vivian Jenkins and Arthur Rees — played and won against New Zealand in Swansea in 1935.

This maybe a hard act for Gwyn Jones to follow. He is however a fine role model for his old college, mixing his sporting ambition with his medical studies. An admirable old rugby tradition.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, bridge correspondent

I like books in quiz format — they make you work before you see the answers. Bernard Magee's *Quiz and Puzzle Book* has the additional feature that each chapter of bridge problems is concluded by a crossword, word search, acrostic or such like with a bridge theme. The chapter entitled "Wrong Contract" may be of practical help to readers who tend to concentrate on blaming partner when dummy is put down rather than on making the contract they are in. This is an example.

Dealer North *Love all*

North:
♠10 4
♥7 2
♦A K Q J 6 4
♣K 7 2

West:
♠7 6 3
♥K Q 10 9 8
♦10 7 5
♣10 6

East:
♠J 8 5 2
♥A J 6 4 3
♦9 2
♣A 4

South:
♠A K Q 9
♥5
♦8 3
♣Q J 9 8 5 3

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: king of hearts

If you really want to know how North-South arrived in Four Spades you will have to buy the book. Meanwhile, the problem is how to try and make it on the king of hearts lead. At trick two West continues with the queen of hearts.

You cannot afford to lose trump control so ruffing the second trick is out of the question. You have to discard a club, leaving dummy to deal with a third heart. That makes two heart losers and the ace of clubs to come, so you cannot afford a trump loser.

Be sure to ruff the third heart with the ten of spades in order to unblock for the impending trump finesse. Yes, you have to take a trump finesse, and when that comes home you make just the eleven tricks. It is a matter of being able to calm yourself enough to play the hand. Here ducking the second heart and ruffing the third with the ten of spades are both essential plays, which could be easily missed if your eyes were not firmly centred on the ball. If you ruff the third heart small and lead the ten of spades, East ducks and you are stranded in dummy with no way back to hand.

☐ Mr Bridge's *Quiz and Puzzle Book* (Foulsham, £5.99) is available from all good bookshops or direct from Mr Bridge, Ryden Grange, Bisley, Surrey GU21 2TH, tel: 01483 489961, price £6.70 including postage.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
chess correspondent

Hungarian championship

Hungary has an enduring reputation as one of the world's strongest chess-playing countries. The championship this year, a double-round all-play-all, has been won convincingly by grandmaster Zoltan Almasi.

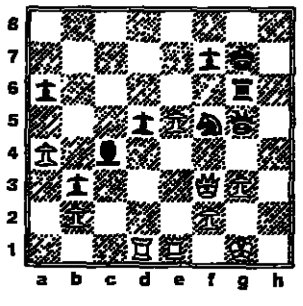
White: Gyula Sax
Black: *Zoltan Almasi*
Hungarian championship, Budapest 1997

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	Nf6
4	d3	d6
5	c3	a6
6	Ba4	g6
7	Nbd2	Bg7
8	Nf1	0-0
9	Ng3	b5
10	Bb3	Na5
11	Bc2	c5
12	0-0	Re8
13	a4	b4
14	cxb4	cxb4
15	Bd2	Rb8
16	Qe1	Qb6
17	Be3	Qb7
18	h3	Be6
19	Qd1	b3
20	Bb1	Nc6
21	d4	exd4
22	Nxd4	Bc4
23	Re1	d5
24	Ndf5	gxf5
25	Nxf5	Qd7
26	Qc1	Re5
27	Nxg7	Kxg7
28	Bf4	Rbe8
29	Bxe5	Nxe5
30	Qg5+	Ng6
31	e5	Ng8
32	Bxg6	hxg6
33	h4	Re6
34	Rad1	Qe7
35	Qf4	Nh6
36	g3	Rc6
37	Qf3	Nf5
38	h5	Qg5
39	hxg6	Rxg6

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Staunton Society

The annual dinner of the Staunton Society will be held at the Royal Automobile Club on Thursday November 27. The chief purpose of the Society is to maintain the memorial erected to Howard Staunton (1810-1874) at Kensal Green cemetery, London. Those interested in attending should contact Barry Martin on 0181-744 2868 or 0181-742 2311.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Hungarian championship, Budapest, October 1997

	1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1 Almasi	*	½ ½	½ 1	½ ½	1 ½	5
2 Chernin	½ ½	*	½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	4
3 Leko	½ 0	½ ½	*	1 ½	½ ½	4
4 Pinter	½ ½	½ ½	0 ½	*	½ ½	3½
5 Sax	0 ½	½ ½	½ ½	½ ½	*	3½

In the above table, 1 represents a win, ½ a draw and 0 a loss

De Silva steers Sri Lanka to draw

By Our Sports Staff

ARAVINDA DE SILVA produced a masterly show of defiance to score an unbeaten 110 and earn Sri Lanka an unlikely draw in the first Test against India in Mohali.

India appeared to have victory within their grasp when they claimed three wickets in the morning to reduce Sri Lanka to 106 for five, still needing 40 to make India bat again.

It was then that De Silva and Kumara Dharmasena began a stand of 103 that lasted throughout the afternoon session and beyond tea. Dharmasena was eventually bowled by Javagal Srinath for 25 when Sri Lanka were 63 ahead and a minimum of 25 overs were still to be bowled.

However, De Silva ensured that it did not herald the beginning of a decline in his side's fortunes by continuing to frustrate India. He was helped by a 38-minute stoppage for bad light that came when he was on 98. Sri Lanka were 251 for six at the close.

De Silva, 31, completed a fifteenth Test century and his third hundred in his past four innings against India. He hit 15 fours and a six and underlined his determination to survive by making just 19 during the morning and 41 between lunch and tea. He showed the more familiar part of his game after tea with a flurry of fours all round the wicket.

Sachin Tendulkar, the India captain, rotated his bowlers in short spells to break the sixth-wicket partnership and even called upon Mohammad Azharuddin to bowl his second over in Test cricket.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, said: "I knew we could pull it off as long as Aravinda was there." De Silva, who was named man of the match, said: "I thought the wicket was not that difficult to bat on, but I had to be patient after we lost those early wickets. I just had to keep going."

Scoreboards, page 41

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AFFENPINSCHER
a. A dog
b. A sexist man
c. An Alpine soldier

ENORMITY
a. Great size
b. Being in a shell
c. Wickedness

DESAI
a. Moderate musically
b. A tax inspector
c. A Himalayan shrub

DVORNIK
a. A janitor
b. A beggar
c. A skater's turn

Answers on page 48

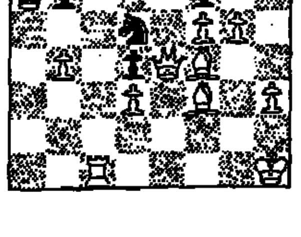
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. From the game Speelman — Bennett, London 1977.

White is a rook in arrears but, thanks to his strong pressure along the diagonals towards the black king, he can now emerge with a winning endgame. Can you see how?

Solution on page 48



GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

TODAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket match*

FA Carling Premiership
Tottenham v Crystal Palace (8.0)

FA Cup
First-round replay
Stevenage v Carshalton (7.45)

RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Dagenham and Redbridge v Heybridge.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: President's Cup: First round: Ashton United v Worksop; Emley v Stocksbridge.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Luton (2.0); Brighton v Southampton (at Worthing FC, 2.0), Swindon v Millwall (7.15).

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Manchester United v Preston (at Gigg Lane, 7.0). First division: Sunderland v Leicester (at Durham City FC, 7.0). Second division: Barnsley v Blackpool (7.0)

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Keynsham v Melksham.

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Coleshill v Wellesbourne.

THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Bradford v Scarborough; York v Middlesbrough.

RUGBY UNION

Tour match
Dean Richards XV v ACT (at Welford Road, 7.45)

OTHER SPORT

MOTOR RALLYING: Network Q RAC Rally (second day: Cheltenham-Dolgellau-Cheltenham).

RACING: Catterick (12.40); Ludlow (12.50); Southwell (AW, 1.0).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

UEFA CUP: Third round, first leg: Steaua Bucharest v Aston Villa (6.45).

FA CUP: First-round replays: Basingstoke v Wycombe; Burnley v Rotherham (7.45); Cambridge United v Plymouth (7.45); Cardiff v Slough; Colchester v Brentford (7.45); Emley v Morecambe (7.45), Gainsborough v Lincoln (at Lincoln City FC), Gillingham v Bristol Rovers (7.45); Grimsby v Shrewsbury (7.45); Leyton Orient v Hendon (7.45); Mansfield v Oldham (7.45); Northampton v Exeter (7.45).

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Rushden and Diamonds v Kettering (7.45)

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Allied Dunbar XV v New Zealand XV (at Ashton Gate, Bristol, 7.45)

UNDER-21 MATCH: Midlands v New Zealand (at Northampton, 7.30)

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Manchester Storm v Nottingham Panthers (7.30)

MOTOR RALLYING: Network Q RAC Rally (third day: Cheltenham-Rhoel-Cheltenham).

RACING: Huntingdon (1.10); Worcester (1.25); Lingfield Park (AW, 1.05).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group B: Feyenoord v Juventus (7.45). Group C: Barcelona v Newcastle (7.45). Group E: Besiktas v Bayern Munich (7.45); IFK Gothenburg v Paris Saint-Germain (7.45). Group F: AS Monaco v Sporting Lisbon (7.45); Lierse SK v Bayer Leverkusen (7.45).

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Chelsea v Everton (7.45).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest (7.45).

FA CUP: First-round replay: * Solihull v Darlington.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCHES: Ireland A v Canada XV (at Ravenhill, 7.30); Leeds v Tonga XV (7.30).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Met Police v Royal Australian Navy (2.30); Cambridge University v M R Steele-Bodger's XV (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: International match: Denmark v England (at Fredericksberg).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Ayr Scottish Eagles v Sheffield Steelers (7.30).

RACING: Chepstow (1.20); Hexham (1.0); Windsor (1.10).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP CHAMPIONS' LEAGUE: Group A: Borussia Dortmund v Galatasaray (7.45); Parma v Sparta Prague (7.45). Group B: Manchester United v FC Kosice (7.45). Group C: Dinamo Kiev v PSV Eindhoven (7.45). Group D: FC Porto v Olympiakos FC (7.45); Rosenborg v Real Madrid (7.45).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Basingstoke Bison v Bracknell Bees (7.30). Express Cup: Cardiff Devils v Newcastle v Cobras (7.0).

RACING: Carlisle (1.0); Taunton (1.25); Uttoxeter (12.45).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Charlton v Swindon (7.45).

RUGBY UNION

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP: Group A: Wakefield v Northampton (7.30). Group B: Leicester v London Irish (7.30). Group C: Coventry v Moseley (7.30). TOUR MATCH: Bath v ACT (7.15).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: World Boxing Union lightweight championship: Z Kalocsai (Hun) v C Dunne (Holloway) (at York Hall, Bethnal Green).

RACING: Bangor (1.20); Newbury (1.0), Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Barnsley v Leeds; Bolton v Wimbledon; Chelsea v Derby; Coventry v Leicester; * Crystal Palace v Newcastle; Everton v Tottenham; Southampton v Sheffield Wednesday; West Ham v Aston Villa.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: First division: Birmingham v Portsmouth; Bradford v Norwich, Huddersfield v Bury; Ipswich v Nottingham Forest; Middlesbrough v West Bromwich; Oxford United v Port Vale; Sheffield United v Crewe; Stockport v Manchester City; Stoke v Reading; Sunderland v Tranmere; Wolverhampton v Queens Park Rangers. Second division: Brentford v Wrexham; Bristol Rovers v Millwall; Burnley v Northampton; Carlisle v Bristol City; Chesterfield v Southend; Gillingham v Grimsby; Plymouth v Oldham; Preston v Fulham; Walsall v Blackpool; Watford v Wigan; Wycombe v Bournemouth; York v Luton. Third division: Barnet v Darlington, Cambridge United v Hartlepool; Cardiff v Scarborough; Chester v Exeter; Hull v Doncaster; Lincoln v Macclesfield; Mansfield v Leyton Orient; Notts County v Peterborough; Rochdale v Torquay; Rotherham v Colchester; Scunthorpe v Brighton; Shrewsbury v Swansea.

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Farnborough v Kidderminster; Gateshead v Yeovil; Hereford v Dover; Kettering v Stevenage; Leek v Cheltenham; Northwich v Welling; Rushden and Diamonds v Hayes; Slough v Southport; Stalybridge v Hednesford; Telford v Morecambe; Woking v Halifax.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Hibernian v Motherwell; Kilmarnock v Dunfermline; Rangers v St Johnstone. First division: Airdrie v Stirling; Greenock Morton v Partick; Hamilton v Dundee; Raith v Ayr; St Mirren v Falkirk. Second division: Brechin v Clyde; Inverness CT v Queen of South; Livingston v East Fife; Stenhousemuir v Clydebank; Stranraer v Forfar. Third division: Alloa v Albion; Berwick v Ross County; Cowdenbeath v Queen's Park; Dumbarton v Arbroath, Montrose v East Stirling.

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: England v South Africa (at Twickenham, 2.0); Wales v New Zealand (at Wembley).

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: North: Pool A: Cumbria v Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire (at Penrith, 2.30); Warwickshire v Durham (at Rugby, 2.30). Pool B: Leicestershire v Cheshire (at Syston, 2.30); North Midlands v Lancashire (at Stourbridge, 2.15). Pool C: Northumberland v Staffordshire (at Morpeth, 2.0); Yorkshire v East Midlands (at Sheffield, 2.15). South: Pool A: Cornwall v Sussex (at Redruth, 2.30). Pool B: Hertfordshire v Berkshire (at Tabard, 2.30). Pool C: Hampshire v Kent (at US Portsmouth, 2.30); Surrey v Buckinghamshire (at Imber Court). Pool D: Devon v Middlesex (at Tiverton, 2.0); Oxfordshire v Somerset (at Banbury, 2.30).

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP: Group B: Orrell v Rotherham. Group C: Sale v Bristol (1.0). Group D: Cambridge University v Blackheath; London Scottish v Bedford (11.30).

JEWSON NATIONAL LEAGUE: Second division south: North Walsham v Met Police (2.30).

SRU TENNENT'S PREMIERSHIP: First division: Boroughmuir v Heriot's FP (2.0); Currie v West of Scotland (2.0), Edinburgh Acads v Melrose (2.0); Jed-Forest v Watsonians (2.0); Stirling County v Hawick (2.0). Second division: Biggar v Kilmarnock (2.0); Gala v Kirkcaldy (2.0); Glasgow Hawks v Dundee HSFP (2.0); Kelso v Preston Lodge (2.0); Musselburgh v Peebles (2.0). Third division: Aberdeen GSFP v Stewartry (2.0); Ayr v Selkirk (2.0); Glasgow Southern v Hillhead/Jordanhill (2.0); Glenrothes v Gordonians (2.0); Stewart's Melville FP v Grangemouth (2.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: European championship: Semi-final: England v Spain (at Plymouth Pavilions).

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation and International Boxing Federation intercontinental light-welterweight championship: J Thaxton (Norwich, holder) v R Bilius (Lat) (at Norwich Sports Village).

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Nottingham Panthers v Basingstoke Bison (7.0); Bracknell Bees v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0)

RACING: Haydock Park (1.05); Newbury (12.45); Newcastle (12.10); Warwick (12.30); Wolverhampton (AW, 7.0).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston)

SUNDAY

FOOTBALL

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Arsenal v Liverpool (4.0); Manchester United v Blackburn.

SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP: Final: Celtic v Dundee United (at Ibrox, 3.0).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Saracens v Tonga XV (3.0).

TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: South: Pool B: Dorset and Wiltshire v Gloucestershire (at Bournemouth, 2.30).

CHELTENHAM & GLOUCESTER CUP: Group A: West Hartlepool v Fylde (3.0).

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Newcastle Cobras (6.30); Cardiff Devils v Bracknell Bees (7.0). Benson and Hedges Cup: Final: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.0). Express Cup: Manchester Storm (6.0); Basingstoke Bison v Ayr Scottish Eagles (6.0).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK championship (in Preston).

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SPOR
IN SCHOO

WEEK AHEAD

GOLF

Solitary Russian long way short of green pastures

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SOTOGRANDE

RUSSIA, Winston Churchill once said, "is a riddle wrapped inside a mystery inside an enigma". There are no such complexities about Alexander Strunkin, who sounds as though he should be living in a village an hour's drive from Moscow writing novels about people who would rather be somewhere else. In fact, Strunkin is Russia's first professional golfer and the first to play well enough to compete at the European qualifying school. As there are only 300 native-born Russian golfers, you might say that Strunkin is the Czar of them.

So the Russians are a rising force in professional golf in Europe, *da*? Well, actually, *niet*. Or rather not yet.

"In 20 years' time, perhaps we dominate," Denis Zherebko, 23, joked. "Not now, not yet." Despite his tender years, Zherebko is president of the newly-formed National Federation of Professional Golfers in Russia and is the country's second-best player.

Strunkin, who took up the game only eight years ago, is frank almost to the point of fierceness about his strengths and weaknesses. "Technically, I am very bad," he said. "I have very little experience. Sometimes, I am good; sometimes, I am very bad." His play bears out this realistic assessment.

He has a strong grip, with his left hand showing more knuckles than it should, and his right hand well underneath the shaft. If this sounds suspiciously like Bernhard Langer's grip, then Strunkin's pre-shot routine looks suspiciously like Langer's too. His swing is wooden, as if composed of 28 separate movements that are not always joined together as smoothly as they should be. Sometimes, as on the short 7th and the 9th in his third round, he hits strokes that would embarrass an amateur. Both rose no more than a couple of feet off the ground.

Scores 41

"Golf is a game of two parts, mental and technical," Zherebko, who is caddying for Strunkin, said. "We have a problem in our head. We have to practise more. In practice, we are two under, then one over. In tournaments, we are ten over and then play five holes in two under. We need more tournaments, more practice, more coaching. There is a professional at the Moscow Country Club, but he is too busy with the members to teach us."

It might have something to do with roubles. Strunkin and Zherebko not only have difficulty in getting equipment; they have to depend on the generosity of the members at the Moscow Country Club, the course designed by Bobby Trent Jones and opened three years ago, to allow them to go abroad to compete.

Though both are dressed as young golfers the world over, the sight of Strunkin's bag is revealing. Whereas those of his playing partners were enormous, the size of small trunks, Strunkin's is half their size and fraying at the edges.

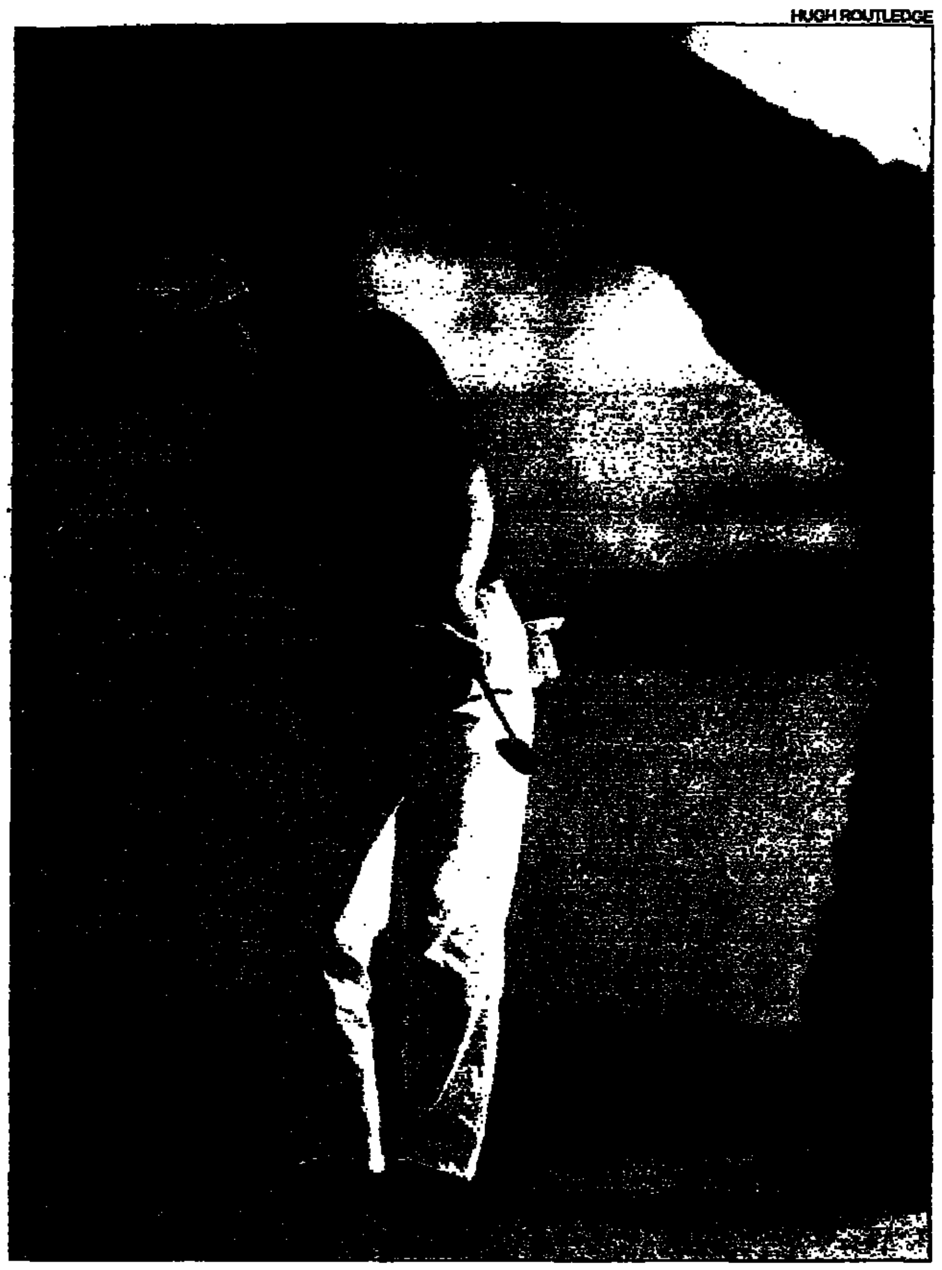
By following rounds of 85 and 74 with an 80 at San Roque yesterday, Strunkin is certain to miss the 72-hole guillotine that will fall tomorrow night and eliminate all but the leading 75 players. Strunkin began brightly enough, getting a birdie at the 1st, but was to have only one other, on the 16th. He finished with two sixes, thereby dropping three shots in two holes. At the 18th, his second shot finished in the greenside pond.

Strunkin, 23 over par, is 31 strokes behind Michael Campbell, the tournament leader, who finished his round of 67 at Guadalmina yesterday with three successive birdies. The Russians may be coming, but they have not yet arrived.

☐ Andrew Coltart, of Scotland, despite a final round of 76, won the Australian PGA Championship over the New South Wales links by four shots yesterday, when only three players managed to break par in the strong north-easterly wind.

Coltart, 27, led by five shots entering the final round, after his 66 on Saturday, and finished with a total of 285, three under par, to pick up a prize of £38,000. It was his first win since he took the same title in 1994 and these are his only tournament victories.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Strunkin, the Russian No 1, plays to the 7th green during yesterday's round of 80

Johansson forced to pull out of cup

PER-ULRIK JOHANSSON was forced to withdraw from the final round of the World Cup of Golf at Kiawah Island, South Carolina, yesterday after he was detained in hospital for observation.

Johansson, who, with Joakim Haeggman, his partner, had taken Sweden into fourth place in the tournament, first fell ill in Atlanta two weeks ago and, on Thursday, after his first round, complained of feeling tired before collapsing in the clubhouse. He was put on a saline drip and had various tests, but doctors were not able to diagnose the problem.

Although still feeling ill, Johansson had a score of 74 in the second round and 71 yesterday, but then suffered a relapse on Saturday night. He lives in Marbella, but was flying back to Sweden to be with his family and to undergo further examination.

Johansson was lying thirteenth in the race for the individual title after three rounds. Haeggman was fifth and opted to play on his own in the final round.

Nick Green, Johansson's agent, said: "The doctors don't really have much of a clue what it is. The most likely cause is some kind of bronchitis. His pulse and heart rates are up and he has some inflammation on his chest.

"They said he could play if he felt well enough, but Per was a little worried and we decided at about 1am not to play. He started feeling dizzy after dinner and would have fainted again if he had not sat down."

Alex Cejka and Sven Struver, of Germany, held the lead at the beginning of the final day after a combined round of 132, 12 under par. They led by two strokes from the Ireland duo of Padraig Harrington and Paul McGinley, whose combined score was 136. Cejka had a round of 65 while Struver shot a 67. "We both played great golf today," Cejka said. "I was hitting good shots to the green and making the putts."

Watson rolls back years and proves he is still big in Japan

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES
IN MIYAZAKI, JAPAN

TEN years ago, Tom Watson, one of the all-time golfing greats, winner of eight major championships and inveterate holer of clutch putts, was at the start of a slump that would have destroyed lesser men.

Yesterday, at 48, he was beaming in the sunshine here, the winner of the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament, Japan's richest event and one of its most coveted.

Watson, who took the first prize of Y35 million (around £162,500) and regained the title that he won in 1980, broke a nine-year drought on the US Tour last year when he won the Memorial Tournament. He is revered here and the defeat of Jumbo Ozaki, the Japan No 1, who will be 51 in January and who had not lost here since 1994, was accepted with good grace.

Watson was never headed from the moment that he rolled home a 20ft putt for a birdie at the par-four 1st to move to nine under par, one shot ahead of Craig Parry, the Japan Open champion, from Australia, who had shared the lead after 54 holes. The American admitted that his short putting was suspect, as usual, but he was hitting the ball well and a seven-iron at the 8th, from the depths of the 270-year old Japanese black pines that line the course, was nominated as his shot of the season.

Watson: two-shot victory

"I had 140 yards to the hole," Watson said, "and I had to bend the ball about 30 yards. I hit a big shrimp hook — a tempura — and it ran up to eight feet. That was fun and I'll remember that shot forever."

He missed the birdie putt, but was helped by the fact that Ozaki had three successive bogeys from the 12th and that Parry did not have his first birdie until the 16th and followed it with a double bogey at the short 17th. That left Watson free to stroll up the last, a par five that he played studiously in regulation.

His round of 70, one under par, gave him a total of 275, nine under, two shots clear of Ozaki's brother, Joe, and three ahead of Parry. Jumbo Ozaki shared fourth place, on 279, with José Maria Olazábal, the leading European player.

Lee Westwood tied for 21st place and Darren Clarke, his Europe Ryder Cup teammate, was joint-tenth.

PASSING THE BUCK
INSIDE THE BUSINESS OF SPORT

Growing pains force clubs to widen horizons

So, Newcastle United have dropped plans for a new 55,000-seat stadium.

No, no. That's not the case.

But the club has submitted plans to expand St James' Park to a capacity of more than 50,000.

Yes, but according to Freddie Fletcher, the chief executive, these plans are not mutually exclusive. It is just that United are "sensitive" to the environmental concerns of the Castle Leazes plan.

Which are?

People don't want a football stadium on one of the few stretches of parkland in central Newcastle.

So the club has learnt sensitivity?

Not exactly. It has learnt that while it might browbeat Newcastle City Council, largely by threatening to relocate to Gateshead if Castle Leazes was not approved, this scheme has to go to the Government office for the North East, which might block it. The club may be bigger than the City, but not the region.

So it is covering its bases by putting in plans to expand St James' Park.

Exactly — and planning permission for that could be through by the summer.

So why did United go through this whole new stadium saga?

Because expanding an existing stadium is expensive, difficult to complete and usually involves cutting capacity while the work goes on. However, United claim they can complete the work, which will involve taking the roof off St James' and building an extra tier, and still pack 36,500 screaming Geordies into the ground every match.

And Coventry are leaving Highfield Road, I hear.

They are planning a 40,000-seat stadium with a retractable roof and a removable pitch by the M6. It will cost around £80 million and Coventry are talking about floating on the stock market once the scheme is under way.

But are 40,000 people going to turn up to watch Coventry?

Not every week, but it will sell out for up to half a dozen matches — such as Manchester United, Aston Villa, Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea. Also the retractable roof and pitch mean it can be turned into a concert venue.

Haven't I heard this before?

Oh yes. Caspian Group, which owns Leeds United, has plans to build a 20,000-seat arena next door to Elland Road. It is setting up an ice hockey team, wants a bastketball team and plans all-week entertainment on the site.

And where has this got to?

Er, well. Leeds City Council is in favour of the scheme. It's just that Caspian is a little short of the £60 million it needs for the project.

And aren't Arsenal moving as well?

Could be. They want to expand Highbury by knocking down 50 neighbouring houses. Local residents are not happy, but Arsenal say that, if their plans are blocked, they will build a new stadium at either King's Cross or Alexandra Palace.

So it's goodbye to the marble halls then.

Not so fast. This looks like an attempt to twist Islington Council's arm into allowing the Highbury expansion. The whole process is being complicated by attempts by Engligh Heritage to have the East Stand at Highbury listed as a building of architectural merit.

JASON NISSÉ

SPEEDWAY

Promoters may suffer triple blow

BY TONY HOARE

AS PROMOTERS flew to the Canary Islands for their annual conference, alarm bells were ringing at home, with three clubs doubtful about whether they would operate in 1998.

The British Speedway Promoters' Association headed for Lanzarote to formulate plans with news that Receivers have been called in at Long Eaton Stadium, where the Invaders team are tenants, because of losses incurred by stock car meetings there. At Stoke, promoters put their entire operation up for sale. The Potters were newcomers to the Premier League, speedway's second division, last season and suffered poor results and low crowds.

Yet the club with the worst survival prospects is Glasgow, where speedway was re-introduced last season after missing the 1996 campaign. Neil Macfarlane, the promoter, who led them to the league and cup double in 1993 and 1994, said the club is unlikely to continue and cancelled his trip to the conference. The owners of Shawfield Stadium, the home track of Glasgow, backed the club in 1997, but low attendances have forced a rethink.

"It is unlikely Glasgow will re-open in 1998. There has always been apathy from Glasgow speedway supporters," Macfarlane said. "The club needed to attract 800 people to break even, but the crowd occasionally dipped as low as 500. There has been a cancer eating away at Glasgow speedway for years and it is now terminally ill."

The Elite League also needs to recruit clubs after the withdrawal of Bradford and the possibility of Peterborough stepping down.

BOXING: FOREMAN RETIRES AS BRITONS SUFFER CONFLICTING FORTUNES

Lewis cautious about April title meeting with Holyfield

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX LEWIS can look forward with cautious optimism to a bout with Evander Holyfield for the undisputed world heavyweight championship early next year. Politics had threatened to bedevil the World Boxing Council (WBC) champion's plans to meet Holyfield, who holds the World Boxing Association (WBA) and International Boxing Federation (IBF) titles, but Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, said yesterday that a way had been found around the problem.

Maloney said that Panos Eliades, the head of Panix, the promotion company behind Lewis, and Don King, Holyfield's promoter, had had talks over the weekend and it was likely that a deal would be signed early next week.

"The body of the car is ready," Maloney said. "All that is needed is to put the nuts and bolts in place."

It had been reported that an American judge had said that Holyfield must meet the winner of the bout between Orlin Norris and Henry Akinwande by June 28. Maloney said that American lawyers had studied the judge's order and were of the opinion that there would be no objection to the unification contest being staged before the June date. King and Eliades have already pencilled in April for the bout, which will most likely be staged in Las Vegas.

With the paucity of credible opponents in the heavyweight division for Lewis and Holyfield, the victory of Shannon Briggs over George Foreman at Atlantic City on Saturday will have been welcomed. Foreman, despite his 49 years, has always been regarded as a good test for heavyweights coming up. Briggs is one of the names on the list of leading opponents for Lewis drawn up by HBO, the American cable television company.

Foreman announced his retirement immediately after the majority verdict in Briggs's favour was announced. "This is my last fight," he said. "I have had a wonderful career. You just can't go on and on. I'm happy I'm not hurt. I'm almost 50."

Foreman was undisputed champion from 1973 to 1974. He lost his title to Muhammad Ali in Zaire. He retired in 1977, but ten years later came back as a preacher-puncher. He won the WBA and IBF titles by knocking out Michael Moorer in 1994. He was subsequently stripped of the title and never recovered form. In a career of 81 contests, he had only five defeats.

Briggs slips safely inside a left jab from Foreman

First defeat brings call for rethink

IF Lennox Lewis's hopes of boxing for the undisputed heavyweight championship of the world were looking bright yesterday, the prospects of another Lewis, Ady, at the other end of the scale were causing some concern to his friends and admirers (Srikumar Sen writes).

The British and Commonwealth flyweight champion from Bury suffered his first defeat in 15 contests when he was stopped in four rounds by David Guerault, of France, the European champion.

Lewis, who is the smallest British champion at 4ft 10½in, was facing an opponent ten inches taller, not eight inches as had been presumed before the bout. The Englishman simply could not get close enough to the quick-moving champion to land a solid blow to slow him down. Lewis appeared also to lack the strength to force his way through.

Jack Doughty, his manager, blamed his performance on too much boxing in the past 12 months. Lewis won the Central Area title, the British and the Commonwealth crown and defended the British title twice before challenging for the European. Doughty is thinking of moving him back up to bantamweight.

Times competition grows ever more popular

THE second year of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge Challenge is already proving a roaring success, largely because of the new social category, which has been specially tailored to suit social and rubber bridge players with little or no experience of competitive bridge.

With a P & O bridge cruise for two as one of the many prizes on offer, it is ironic that the most exotic location so far for a heat was on board the P & O cruise ship *Oriana*. In the Atlantic Ocean, near Casablanca, 84 players attempted to qualify for the final stages of the competition. Leading the way were Charles and Elsie Spence, from Aberdeen, and Ron and May Cowpland, from Sussex. Both pairs will be hoping to earn a repeat voyage via the finals next June.

One pair that will not be challenging for honours is the combination of the men's winners last year, Robert Hogan and Tom Gunn, who failed to shine in the heat, held at the Jarvis London Embassy Hotel.

While this year's competition has already exceeded the first in terms of entries, there are still two months left in which to organise a heat. Full information may be obtained by calling Chicago Bridge Promotions on 0181-942 9506.

ICE HOCKEY

Bison lead old-style goal spree

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

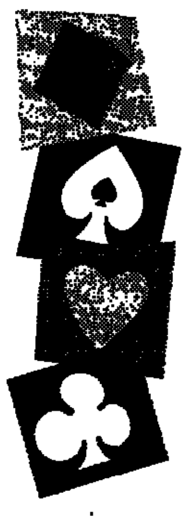
A FEATURE of the Superleague this season has been low scoring, based on organised defence and good goaltending. In the three games played on Saturday, somebody forgot to tell the players. At Basingstoke, particularly, it was as though the clock had been turned back ten years and there were goals galore.

The Bison beat Sheffield Steelers 10-7 to become the first team to run up a double-figure score in the league this season. Peter Woods, the Basingstoke coach, signed Matt Sharrers and released Chris Maybury and one has to wonder if the realisation that nobody is indispensable acted as an incentive for the rest of the team.

They worked like demons, led 6-1 at the end of the first period and sent the first-choice Sheffield goaltender, Piero Greco, to the bench after a shaky performance, which culminated in an argument with the referee. That earned Greco a penalty and saw the Bison score their fifth goal in the resultant power-play.

Cardiff Devils and Ayr Scottish Eagles are due to meet in the final of the Benson & Hedges Cup in Sheffield at the end of next week and the Devils, besides gaining two valuable league points, scored a psychological blow with a 7-4 win in Scotland. The forward line of Ken Hodge, Steve Thornton and Ivan Matulik was in sparkling form and contributed three goals and six assists.

Nottingham Panthers also caught the goalscoring bug and beat Newcastle Cobras 8-3 to end the Cobras' brief run of success under their new coach, Dale Lambert.



THE TIMES
National
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RACING: STOUTE SEALS SEASON WITH SECOND JAPAN CUP WIN

Pilsudski produces perfect finish to notable career

By Our Racing Staff

PILSUDSKI rounded off his glorious career in the best possible fashion with a victory in the valuable Japan Cup at Tokyo racecourse yesterday.

Right to the last, the admirable five-year-old, sent off at odds of 3.6-1, demonstrated his gameness, holding off the home-trained Air Groove by a neck after a tremendous tussle to collect the £882,096 first prize.

Pilsudski's victory was another feather in the cap of Michael Stoute, who prepared Singspiel to win the same race 12 months ago. It has sealed a wonderful year for Stoute, who is the leading British trainers abroad as well as winning the domestic title.

"I am very fortunate to win with two determined and wonderful horses. They are both amazingly courageous and without that courage neither would have won," he said. "I always thought that Pilsudski had a very good chance, but I knew we were up against tough competition and I didn't underestimate his task at the end of a long season."

Racing in mid-division, slightly further back than his jockey Mick Kinane had intended, Pilsudski was travelling well turning into the straight. He responded in great style, striking the front in the final 100 yards and galloping on well to hold Air Groove. Bubble Gum Fellow, the favourite, was a further 1¼ lengths back in third.

The German raider, Caitano, fared the best of the other overseas challengers, finishing fast to take fourth. Ireland's Oscar Schindler was slightly disappointing and had to settle for eighth, while Luca Cumani's Mons had every chance two furlongs out but was soon beaten and came home tenth.

Kinane said: "He was cruising turning into the straight and I knew I had the horse with finishing speed. But I thought Air Groove might beat me when she came past me one furlong out and I had to rally Pilsudski and go at her again. It was tough."

Pilsudski returns to Newmarket this week, but the future of the son of Polish Precedent is in Japan. He has been bought by the Japanese Breeders' Association and will be retired to one of their stud farms in January.

Laura Weinstock, whose father-in-law, Lord Weinstock, owns Pilsudski, said: "The win is very special because we have had him a long time and are very attached to the horse."

Mons was reluctant to enter the stalls but had every chance *before fading in the closing* stages. His jockey, John Reid, said: "The incident at the starting gate did not contribute to his defeat. He settled up with the pace but the difference in ability in the straight was obvious."

Oscar Schindler was never *in contention and his rider*, Cash Asmussen, reported him to be over the top.

TOMIMASA MAYAMA

Pilsudski, ridden by Kinane, stays on strongly to land yesterday's Japan Cup

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Wandering Light
(1.20 Ludlow)

Wandering Light, who carries the famous Arkle colours, won a novice chase in taking style at Worcester and top weight should not stop him following up on his handicap debut at Ludlow today.

Next Best: Castle Owen
(3.50 Ludlow)

BIG-RACE DETAILS

Going: firm

JAPAN CUP (Group I: £897,174: 1m 4f)

1, PILSUDSKI .... M J Kinane

2, *Air Groove* .... Y Take

3, Bubble Gum Fellow .... Y Okabe

ALSO RAN: Caitano (4th), Silk Justice (5th), Astarabad (6th), Tsukuba Symphony, Oscar Schindler, Rosen Kavalier, Mons, Royal Touch, Ebony Grosve, Snow *Endeavor, Taiki Fortune*. 14 ran. Nk, 1¼l, nk, nk, hd. Trained by M Stoute in Newmarket. Tote: (including 100 Yen stake): 460; 160, 140, 140. DF: 860.

Jockey Club left barely scratched by Cutting Edge

By Chris McGrath

THOSE who have seen trailers for *The Englishman and His Horse*, a Cutting Edge documentary about racecourse stewards, to be screened by Channel 4 tomorrow night, will be nervously anticipating a goring for the image of British racing. In the event, however, it largely escapes with a few scratches.

Certainly, unprecedented access has allowed the programme's makers to give flesh and blood to the widespread *assumption* that some of England's grandest men and women shame themselves with a complacent and patronising attitude behind the closed doors of a stewards' inquiry.

This should come as no surprise, in that they conduct themselves in similar fashion outside the stewards' room. Equally, however, it becomes evident that there are those who volunteer their time to the racing public and their hides to the racing press, through a genuine sense of honour and social responsibility.

Efforts to discredit the Jockey Club by associating the sport's residual feudality with the shortcomings of some of its officials prove too clumsy to register a palpable hit. Instead, one sees honest, anxious people attempting a fair application of the rules of racing.

The Englishman and His Horse was the parting flourish of David Pipe, former director of public affairs at the Jockey Club. It is evident that the doors to what he calls the sport's "inner sanctum" were prised open with some *trepidation* and — while Portman Square is certainly prey to unnecessary paranoia about the invasion of its privacy — it is soon evident why.

The film opens with a succession of its subjects introducing themselves, *privileged men* counting their blessings, while Lambourn stable lads are shown commencing their shivering dawn labours. Next, those who know their racing will recognise, in the person of Peter Walwyn, a man who blends extreme conservatism with his own chaotic individualism, and a trainer lovably unrepresentative of his colleagues. One doubts whether Mick Easterby would have been of much value to the makers of this programme.

Likewise, their visit to the Countryside Rally in Hyde Park *savours the sight of* Michael Heseltine's audience at the expense, for instance, of the incisive wisdom offered to the crowd by an authentic racing man in Sir Mark Prescott.

Viewers will justly cringe at the "headmaster's study" atmosphere to the inquiries themselves. Russell Price, whose selfless evidence makes for the most edifying feature of the whole film, and Frankie Dettori stand to attention, hands clasped behind their backs. Dettori, a supreme athlete at the peak of his profession, is required to deport himself with uncharacteristic meekness as a panel of amateurs chide his errors. He must call them "sir", though he could probably *buy a merchant bank* from any of them.

Yet one is left to conclude that their varying levels of personal conceit will not especially impede the justice of the stewards' deliberations. It also shows how, beneath the stiff exterior of *some English people*, simmers an authentic passion for the horse.

Coome Hill is doubtful for the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury on Saturday. Winner of the race last year, he has not yet recovered from a pulled muscle and knocked-out vertebra *sustained when third to* Banjo at Cheltenham recently.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER
12.00 Up In Flames. 12.30 Shalaal. 1.00 Evezio Rufo. 1.30 Newlands Corner. 2.00 Mayflower. 2.30 Double Edged. 3.00 Pinup. 3.30 Cruz Santa.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

12.00 SOLOMAN HANDICAP
(Div I: £1,944: 1m) (16 runners)

1 2032 ZALOTTO 10 (B,BF) T Etherington 3-9-13 .. W J O'Connor 8
2 0040 DOMINO FLYER 21 (CD,G,S) Mrs A Swinbank 4-9-12 G Duffield 7
3 -000 SYCAMORE LODGE 6J (G) M Peill 6-9-12 Dean McKeown 15
4 3600 GIKO 31 (F) J Poulton 3-9-10 .. D Biggs 9
5 0000 PLEASURE TRICK 21 (CD,F,G) Enrico Incisa 6-9-6 Kim Tinkler 2
6 4642 LEGAL ISSUE 7 (BF,D,F,G,S) W Haigh 5-9-6 A Culhane 1
7 0000 GENUINE JOHN 10 (C) J Parkes 4-9-4 .. S Whitworth 13
8 5003 AWESOME VENTURE 7 (CD,S) M Chapman 7-9-4 C Lowther (3) 3
9 0506 GODMERSHAM PARK 18 P Felgate 5-9-0 .. G Parkin (3) 14
10 2530 LEGEND OF ARAGON 3 (S) J Glover 3-8-13 S D Williams 12
11 3010 UP IN FLAMES 10 (D,F,G) S Bowring 6-8-11 C Teague (3) 10
12 0000 MISLEMANI 47 (D,F,G) A Newcombe 7-8-9 D Griffiths (3) 16
13 0656 JIMJAREER 18 (C) J H Wilson 4-8-8 .. M Tebbutt 4
14 0050 RISKY LOVER 212 T Bill 4-8-8 .. T G McLaughlin 5
15 5605 LOCH STYLE 55 (D,F) R Hollinshead 4-8-8 .. W Ryan 6
16 5400 LAS VISTAS 18 H Collingridge 3-8-7 .. M Rimmer 11

5-1 Zalotto, 11-2 Legal Issue, 6-1 Awesome Venture, 7-1 Legend Of Aragon, 8-1 Up In Flames, 10-1 Domino Flyer, 12-1 Loch Style, 14-1 others.

12.30 MANWAY HANDICAP
(Div I: £2,531: 6f) (16)

1 4010 SHALAAL 31 (S) M Chapman 3-10-0 .. G Duffield 9
2 *0000 PRIDE OF BRIXTON 17 (G) C Thornton 4-9-10* Dean McKeown 8
3 0400 G I LA HIGH 35 (C) M Meade 4-9-9 .. V Slattery 11
4 0020 MALLIA 20 (B,D,F,G) T Barron 4-9-8 .. L Charnock 13
5 4006 THEATRE MAGIC 10 (C) D Shaw 4-9-6 .. C Lowther (3) 4
6 0344 SILK COTTAGE 10 (F) R Whitaker 5-8-13 .. A Clark 5
7 2141 SOUTHERN DOMINION 17 (B,D,F,G,S) Miss J Craze 5-8-11 S Webster 7
8 6030 ROCKCRACKER 28 (B,D,F) G Margarson 5-8-10 D Biggs 1
9 0300 PHARAOH'S JOY 10 (D,F) A Newcombe 4-8-10 D Griffiths (3) 14
10 0005 GWESPYR 10 (F,S) Enrico Incisa 4-8-7 .. Kim Tinkler 3
11 2000 LITTLE IBNR 10 (V,CD,F) P Cundell 6-8-6 .. R Perham 16
12 C000 DEERLY 28 (D,G) P Dalton 4-8-3 .. P Mundy (7) 12
13 0230 SUPERAPPAROS 10 S Bowring 3-8-0 Dale Gibson 15
14 1544 RING THE CHIEF 61 (BF,C,S) M Usher 5-7-11 J Marshall 10
15 6-00 GENERAL EQUATION 33 (C) J Balding 4-7-11 N Carlisle 6
16 5030 TICKA TICKA TIMING 94 (CD) B Murray 4-7-10 D O'Shea 2

3-1 Southern Dominion, 11-2 Mallia, 7-1 Shalaal, 10-1 Theatre Magic, Silk Cottage, 12-1 G I La High, 14-1 Rockcracker, Pharaoh's Joy, 16-1 others.

1.00 MARATHON LIMITED STAKES
(£2,294: 1m 3f) (16)

1 0104 PICKENS 7 (D,F) Enrico Incisa 5-9-4 .. Kim Tinkler 6
2 6493 CHADLEIGH LANE 7 (C) A Mulholland 5-9-2 .. T Lucas 13
3 5006 CHALKY DANCER 7 H Collingridge 5-9-2 .. M Rimmer 3
4 00-0 EL PRESIDENTE 27 G Enright 4-9-2 .. A Clark 14
5 0440 EVEZIO RUFO 15J (B,CD,S) N Littmoden 5-9-2 P Roberts (3) 15
6 0000 NORTHERN FAN 7 (C) N Tinkler 5-9-2 .. S Whitworth 2
7 *5005 RAED 33 Mrs A Swinbank 4-9-2* .. *G Duffield 12*
8 230- TEMPERING 511 (CD,F) D Chapman 11-9-2 .. A Culhane 11
9 2034 WILDFIRE 65 (CD,S) J Akehurst 6-9-2 .. S Sanders 7
10 5003 LAPU-LAPU 33 (F,S) M Camacho 4-9-1 .. L Charnock 5
11 0610 MISTERTON 33 (D,F) J Glover 3-8-13 .. S D Williams 4
12 6003 WILDMOOR 35 (F,S) John Berry 3-8-12 .. M Fenton 16
13 0000 JOLI'S PRINCE 67 C Murray 3-8-11 .. Nicola Howarth 9
14 050 PRIMERO 11 A Sarrow 3-8-11 .. D Biggs 1
15 4563 AEOLINA 20 ? Wetherell 3-8-8 .. Dean McKeown 10
16 6020 UNDERSTUDY 40 R Hollinshead 3-8-8 .. W Ryan 8

7-2 Lapu-Lapu, 11-2 Aeolina, 6-1 Wildfire, 8-1 Wildmoor, 10-1 Chadleigh Lane, Raed, 12-1 Pickens, Understudy, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 24 winners from 105 runners, 22.9%; M Meade, 3 from 14, 21.4%; M Johnston, 53 from 250, 21.2%; Lord Huntingdon, 12 from 89, 20.2%; M Ryan, 22 from 122, 18.0%; T Barron, 31 from 202, 15.3%.

JOCKEYS: N Day, 9 winners from 34 rides, 26.5%; Kimberley Hart, 8 from 32, 25.0%; D Biggs, 24 from 128, 18.8%; Miss R Clark, 5 from 29, 17.2%; P Roberts, 9 from 61, 14.8%; G Duffield, 31 from 255, 12.2%.

1.30 MANWAY HANDICAP
(Div II: £2,518: 6f) (16)

1 0030 MR FROSTY 186 (CD) W Jarvis 5-10-0 .. S Sanders 5
2 1052 PALO BLANCO 17 (D,F,S) G Moore 6-9-11 Candy Morris 13
3 *0060 NAPIER STAR 8 (V,CD) Mrs N Macauley 4-9-10* .. S Webster 1
4 0003 FAYIK 10 A Newcombe 3-9-9 .. G Duffield 6
5 5141 MIDDLE EAST 40 (B,D,F,S) T Barron 4-9-9 Kimberley Hart (5) 4
6 0050 KALAR 61 (B,CD,F,G) D Chapman 8-9-6 .. A Culhane 15
7 1503 NEWLANDS CORNER 7 (B,CD,F) J Akehurst 4-9-4 D Biggs 14
8 2100 FIGLIA 51 (B) J L Harris 3-8-11 .. R Winston (5) 12
9 3000 SYLVAN DANCER 40 G Bravery 3-8-11 .. N Day 10
10 *1230 TIME TO FLY 93 (B,CD) B Murray 4-8-10* .. *Dean McKeown 2*
11 -600 HURGILL TIMES 37 (V) D Shaw 3-8-4 .. C Lowther (3) 9
12 0000 NAPOLEON STAR 10 (CD,F) Miss J Craze 6-8-1 Dale Gibson 7
13 0000 SOUPERFICIAL 10 (V,CD,F) E Incisa 6-7-12 .. Kim Tinkler 3
14 0066 IMPISH 142 (S) T Etherington 3-7-11 .. L Charnock 11
15 4000 MELBOURNE PRINCESS 7 R Whitaker 3-7-11 .. N Carlisle 8
16 6540 IMP EXPRESS 88 (F,G) P Felgate 4-7-10 .. D Wright 16

4-1 Middle East, 5-1 Palo Blanco, 8-1 Napier Star, Fayik, Kalar, Newlands Corner, 14-1 Figlia, Sylvan Dancer, Time To Fly, 16-1 others.

2.00 SOLOMAN HANDICAP
(Div II: £1,944: 1m) (16)

1 0300 ZERMATT 9 (D,F,S) M Usher 7-9-12 .. S Sanders 4
2 2064 SEA SPOUSE 55 (CD,S) M Blanshard 6-9-12 .. Dale Gibson 2
3 0361 DEMOCRAT 7 (CD) M Prescott 3-9-12 (6ex) .. G Duffield 16
4 0334 MOLLY MUSIC 10 (CD) G Margarson 3-9-7 W J O'Connor 6
5 0400 COURT HOUSE 8J (D,G) M Chapman 3-9-6 .. C Lowther (3) 3
6 *0300 HAWAII STORM 57 (CD,S) D F-Davis 9-9-5* G Milligan (5) 12
7 6000 CATS BOTTOM 21 (CD,F) A Newcombe 5-9-4 P P Murphy (3) 9
8 5604 PLUM FIRST 7 (F,S) M Peill 7-9-1 .. Kimberley Hart (5) 7
9 0060 SLIEVENAMON 55 (CD) R Simpson 4-9-0 .. A McGlone 11
10 0003 MAYFLOWER 42 (V) M Tompkins 3-8-12 .. D Biggs 15
11 0000 SIDNEY THE KIDNEY 21 M Ryan 3-8-10 .. P McCabe (3) 1
12 0000 FIRST GOLD 40 (C,F,G,S) J Wharton 8-8-9 .. A Clark 14
13 *5050 QUEEN OF SHANNON 21 (D,F,S) A Carroll 9-8-8* .. *W Ryan 8*
14 650- ONE SHOT 529 W Muir 4-8-8 .. J Wilkinson (7) 5
15 0606 PRINCIPAL BOY 10 (C,D,S) T Etherington 4-8-7 L Charnock 13
16 6-00 DANCING DESTINY 33 R Bastiman 5-8-7 .. Dean McKeown 10

7-2 Democrat, 5-1 Mayflower, 8-1 Sea Spouse, Molly Music, 10-1 Cats Bottom, Plum First, Queen Of Shannon, 12-1 others.

2.30 MIDWAY MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,277: 1m) (8)

1 6 COURAGE UNDER FIRE 34 D Arbuthnot 9-0 .. S Whitworth 2
2 542 DOUBLE EDGED 16 M Johnston 9-0 .. G Duffield 1
3 60 FEARLESS BRAVE 47 C Thornton 9-0 .. Dean McKeown 3
4 0 MASAMADAS 17 C Wall 9-0 .. S Sanders 5
5 6050 NAKED OAT 35 B Smart 9-0 .. J Stack 7
6 0 SWALLOW WARRIOR 25 T Etherington 9-0 .. A Culhane 4
7 0 TRAKELOR 7 R Hollinshead 8-9 .. D Griffiths (3) 8
8 WILD CANARY Lord Huntingdon 8-9 .. W Ryan 6

4-6 Double Edged, 5-1 Wild Canary, 8-1 Fearless Brave, Masamadas, 9-1 others.

3.00 BONIN SELLING STAKES
(2-Y-O: £1,999: 1m) (16)

1 4530 FIGAWIN 6 (C) S Dow 9-2 .. S Sanders 16
2 0530 ISLAND GIRL 10 (G) D Arbuthnot 8-11 .. S Whitworth 8
3 0000 JOCKWEILER 77 D Chapman 8-11 .. A Culhane 11
4 0 LE GENEREUX 6 M Channon 8-11 .. R Perham 4
5 6065 SHARP MONKEY 10 (V) Mrs N Macauley 8-11 .. D Biggs 10
6 6103 SUMMERSEAT 39 G Holmes 8-11 .. L Charnock 13
7 066 ANNOUNCING PEACE 18 C Dwyer 8-6 .. A Garth 9
8 BUNNIES OWN J L Harris 8-6 .. R Winston (5) 3
9 CIRCUMNAVIGATE M Johnston 8-6 .. Dean McKeown 6
10 5002 DANCE TO THE BEAT 37 M Meade 8-6 .. D Wright 15
11 0000 JOLI FILLE 10 J Wainwright 8-6 .. C Lowther (3) 14
12 0042 LADY EIL 23 B Smart 8-6 .. J Stack 7
13 0543 MARY LOU 10 M Channon 8-6 .. A Clark 2
14 0540 PINUP 11 C Dwyer 8-6 .. G Duffield 1
15 POLLYOUU N Littmoden 8-6 .. K Pierrepont (7) 5
16 3300 TILBURG 42 Mrs N Macauley 8-6 .. P P Murphy (3) 12

11-4 Summerseat, 4-1 Dance To The Beat, 13-2 Circumnavigate, 10-1 others.

3.30 BOUNTY AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP
(£1,999: 1m 6f) (13)

1 6266 CANTON VENTURE 5J (C,F) S Woods 5-11-7 .. S Sailers 2
2 5000 CHINA CASTLE 9 (C) P Haslam 4-11-2 Miss A Armitage (5) 9
3 1003 EDAN HEIGHTS 11 (F,S) S Dow 5-10-13 .. R Guest (5) 7
4 2332 GREENSPAN 7 (BF,C,S) W Muir 5-10-13 .. R Pooles (5) 11
5 0301 NIGHT CITY 15 (S) K Burke 6-10-12 .. Mrs S Bosley 8
6 6300 GOLDEN HADEER 18 (CD,F) M Ryan 6-10-10 S Lavallin (5) 3
7 /6-4 YACHT 18 A Newcombe 5-10-8 .. Miss R Clark 10
8 0334 TOI TOI 10 D Arbuthnot 3-9-12 .. Mrs D Arbuthnot 5
9 0461 PHARLY DANCER 7 (CD,G,S) W Haigh 8-9-12 (5ex) Miss D Jones 6
10 6403 NOSEY NATIVE 10 (V,F,S) J Pearce 4-9-6 .. Mrs L Pearce 1
11 000/ RAGAMUFFIN ROMEO 84J H Collingridge 8-9-4 Miss Z Burkett (5) 12
12 0460 CRUZ SANTA 7 M Chapman 4-9-0 .. C Watson (5) 13
13 0600 MYOSOTIS 87 P Hiatt 3-9-0 .. Miss E J Jones (5) 4

9-2 Pharly Dancer, 11-2 Nosey Native, 7-1 Canton Venture, Edan Heights, Night City, Toi Toi, 8-1 Golden Hadeer, 10-1 others.

CATTERICK

THUNDERER
12.40 Diamond Crown. 1.10 Clairabell. 1.40 Pingo Hill. 2.10 Prince Of Saints. 2.40 FLYING NORTH (nap). 3.10 Pims Gunner. 3.40 Orange Imp.
Timekeeper's top rating: 3.10 PIMS GUNNER.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.40 BRADFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,898: 2m) (11 runners)

101 42-5 PARSON'S LODGE 14 (D,G) L Lungo 3-12-0 .. W Dowling (7) 76
102 1884 OPERA FAN 30 (V,CD,G,S) K Morgan 5-11-12 P Morris (5) 81
103 3524 AJDAR 9 (D,F,G) Mrs S Lamyman 6-11-8 .. A Thornton [88]
104 0360 ERICOLIN 11 (V,D,F,G,S) Miss A Stokell 7-10-12 Ann Stokell 76
105 /0-5 MY HANDY MAN 4 D Barker 6-10-12 .. D Bentley –
106 0/00 SHERAZ 11 (B) N Tinkler 5-10-8 .. R Guest –
107 000 DIAMOND CROWN 12 M Nane 6-10-7 .. J Supple 75
108 0424 THARSIS 13 (F,G,S) W Smith 12-10-3 .. S Taylor (5) 80
109 440 THE TIG 21 S Bell 3-10-2 .. K Johnson 75
110 0-60 RESPECTING 15 J A Moore 4-10-0 .. N Smith 70
111 PP-P OUSEFLEET BOY 17 Miss M Milligan 5-10-0 C McCormack (7) –

11-4 Ajdar, 3-1 Diamond Crown, 4-1 Parson's Lodge, 11-2 Opera Fan, 10-1 others.

1.10 WAKEFIELD NOVICES CHASE
(£2,970: 3m 2f) (11)

201 33-1 COMMITTED SCHEDULE 17 (D,F) G Richards 6-11-5 P Niven 108
202 3F14 MIGHTY MERC 72 (BF,F) Mrs B Brazil 9-11-5 .. A Thornton 94
203 P42P THE ENERGISER 10 (F) D Lamb 11-11-5 .. J Burke 88
204 4P-P ALICAT 13 J Cyrus 6-11-5 .. D Byrne –
205 1FB/ CAN YOU JUST 912P (F) R Armson 9-10-12 Mr R Armson –
206 340- DORLIN CASTLE 215 (D,S) L Lungo 9-10-12 .. R Supple [120]
207 5U-0 FUNNY YE KNOW 155 (G,S) F Murtagh 9-10-12 E Callaghan (3) 80
208 2/ MADE OF STEEL 960P Mrs A Naughton 8-10-12 .. J Supple –
209 P32/ MCLOUGHLIN 952P F Kirby 8-10-12 .. W Dwan –
210 0033 NEWTON MIST 14 Mrs S Smith 6-10-12 .. R Guest 86
211 551- CLAIRABELL 221 (G) J Charlton 6-10-7 .. B Storey –

7-4 Committed Schedule, 11-4 Dorlin Castle, 6-1 Clairabell, 8-1 Newton Mist, 9-1 Mighty Merc, 12-1 Made Of Steel, 20-1 McLoughlin, 25-1 others.

1.40 LEEDS HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,303: 2m 3f) (7)

301 11/2 HOUSE OF DREAMS 17 (BF,G) G M Moore 5-11-13 N Horrocks (7) 109
302 114 SUPERPRIDE 13 (F) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-7 .. P Niven 107
303 2-34 OUR ROBERT 8 (V,F,S) A Streeter 5-11-1 .. T Eley 108
304 413/ AFTER GRACE 1031 (S) N Mason 7-10-10 .. R Guest –
305 00-5 TIP IT IN 11 (CD,G,S) A Smith 8-10-3 N Horrocks (7) 98
306 4543 PINGO HILL 17 (G,S) J Mackie 5-10-8 E Husband (3) [118]
307 040- RANGER SLOANE 14F (S) G Fierro 5-10-4 .. R Farrant 99

7-4 House Of Dreams, 5-2 Superpride, 6-1 Our Robert, Tip It In, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; T Easterby, 8 from 17, 47.1%; R Fahey, 3 from 7, 42.9%; A Streeter, 7 from 19, 36.8%; K Morgan, 11 from 43, 25.6%; J FitzGerald, 12 from 51, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 29 winners from 91 rides, 31.9%; T Eley, 5 from 21, 23.8%; R Guest, 8 from 46, 17.4%; M Moloney, 5 from 29, 17.2%; E Callaghan, 7 from 44, 15.9%; R Garritty, 13 from 84, 15.5%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Catterick: 12.40 Encolin, 2.40 Flower Miller. Ludlow: 1.20 Cool Runner

2.10 W L & HECTOR CHRISTIE MEMORIAL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,950: 2m) (11)

401 U413 PAPARAZZO 17 (D,G) G M Moore 6-11-12 .. A Thornton 98
402 30-4 LAST TRY 15 (D,F,G) B Rothwell 6-11-11 .. B Storey 86
403 2/0/ SALINGER 21F (D,G,S) J Parkes 9-11-8 .. S Ryan (5) –
404 1F5P FENWICK'S BROTHER 15 (F) Mrs S Smith 7-11-6 .. R Guest [illegible]
405 -442 MAPLE BAY 13 (D,F) B Ellison 8-11-1 .. C McCormack (7) 103
406 05-F PRINCE OF SAINTS 9 M Hammond 6-10-13 .. R Garritty –
407 42F4 APPEARANCE MONEY 2 (BF,D,G) F Murphy 6-10-10 M Foster 86
408 516- CORBLEU 245 (G) S Bell 7-10-8 .. K Johnson –
409 3PP- DRAGONS BAY 179 Mrs M Reveley 8-10-6 .. P Niven –
410 3-44 OUIXALL CROSSETT 45 E Cane 12-10-0 .. S Taylor (5) 85
411 /000 HYA PRIM 17 N Chamberlain 8-10-0 .. W Dwan 48

11-4 Paparazzo, 7-2 Last Try, 11-2 Maple Bay, Appearance Money, 13-2 Fenwick's Brother, 7-1 Prince Of Saints, 14-1 Salinger, 16-1 others.

2.40 HALIFAX NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,495: 2m) (21)

501 12 FLYING NORTH 44 (D,F) Mrs M Reveley 4-11-6 .. P Niven [illegible]
502 ALPINE HIDEAWAY 18F M W Easterby 4-10-12 .. A Thornton –
503 ANTARCTIC STORM 18F R Fahey 4-10-12 .. J Callaghan –
504 3 BEDROCK 84 H Johnson 4-10-12 .. M Moloney –
505 34/ CELEBRATION CAKE 27F Mrs M Reveley 5-10-12 G Lee (3) –
506 0 DAMZA 60 N Mason 5-10-12 .. R Guest –
507 30 FISIOSTAR 6 M Dods 4-10-12 .. R Supple 70
508 U FLOWER MILLER 6 (B) D Barker 4-10-12 .. D Bentley –
509 GENERAL ACADEMY 148F J Curtis 4-10-12 .. D Byrne –
510 3- JAVA RED 20F J FitzGerald 5-10-12 .. F Leahy (3) 100
511 56 KNAYTON KNIGHT 52 J Jefferson 4-10-12 .. E Callaghan (3) –
512 00 LAY THE BLAME 11 M Hammond 4-10-12 .. R Garritty 60
513 0 MORIS 11 B Ellison 6-10-12 .. D Parker 67
514 MR SUNNY 1137F J Hetherton 8-10-12 .. T Siddall (7) –
515 00 MY GODSON 6 M Dods 7-10-12 .. N Smith 45
516 00P- PRIMITIVE HEART 226 H Alexander 5-10-12 R McGrath (3) 68
517 RASIN CHARGE 472F R Craggs 6-10-12 .. T Reed –
518 3 SQUANDAMANIA 52 J Norton 4-10-12 .. W Dwan 65
519 VANADIUM ORE 20F W McKeown 4-10-12 C McCormack (7) –
520 03P/ WHATDIDYOUSAY 588 (BF) B Bousfield 9-10-12 .. B Storey –
521 00 YOUR THE LIMIT 16 J Parkes 4-10-12 .. S Ryan (5) –

9-4 Flying North, 11-4 Antarctic Storm, 13-2 Celebration Cake, 7-1 Java Red, 10-1 Vanadium Ore, 14-1 Bedrock, 16-1 Alpine Hideaway, 20-1 others.

3.10 NOVEMBER HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,833: 3m 1f 110yd) (8)

601 4132 GALE AHEAD 14 (D,F,G) G M Moore 7-12-0 .. B Storey 111
602 -243 PIMS GUNNER 6 (CD,F,G,S) M Hammond 9-11-11 A Thornton [illegible]
603 -P44 MAGIC BLOOM 93 (F,G) J Jefferson 11-11-9 E Callaghan (3) 110
604 :1-4 BILLSBROOK 16 (G) R Brewis 7-11-6 .. P Niven –
605 3U3- FARNEY GLEN 198 (F,G,S) J J O'Neill 10-11-5 D Jewett (7) 100
606 235- GOLD PIGEON 193 (CD,S) B Rothwell 8-10-8 .. R Supple 117
607 124- KARENASTINO 201 (CD,S) Mrs S Smith 6-10-5 R Wilkinson (5) 119
608 5-22 ALASKAN HEIR 7 (V,G,S) A Streeter 6-10-2 .. T Eley 122

3-1 Gale Ahead, 4-1 Pims Gunner, Farney Glen, 7-1 Alaskan Heir, 8-1 Gold Pigeon, Karenastino, 10-1 Magic Bloom, Billsbrook.

3.40 HUDDERSFIELD STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,287: 2m) (11)

1 ASHLEY COTTAGE J A Moore 5-11-4 .. M H Naughton (5) –
2 MORLEY PRINCE C Grant 4-11-4 .. C McCormack (7) –
3 6 OVER THE BECK 15 J Jefferson 4-11-4 .. E Callaghan (3) –
4 45- POLAR KING 226 (BF) C Thornton 4-11-4 .. N Horrocks (7) –
5 WELLINGTON STREET T Easterby 4-11-4 .. Miss A Deniel –
6 0- GEM OF HOLLY 219 R Wood 4-10-13 .. K Prendergast (7) –
7 KALAN SCAMP J Parkes 4-10-13 .. S Ryan (5) –
8 LADY MOVE J Charlton 5-10-13 .. D Thomas (7) –
9 3-0 ORANGE IMP 15 J FitzGerald 4-10-13 .. F Leahy (3) –
10 0- SHE'S ALL HEART 193 C Parker 4-10-13 .. G Lee (3) –
11 TELLHERPATIT Mrs J Storey 4-10-13 .. Mr C Storey –

11-4 Wellington Street, 3-1 Over The Beck, 7-2 Polar King, 9-2 Orange Imp, 10-1 Morley Prince, 16-1 She's All Heart, 20-1 Kalan Scamp, Lady Move, 25-1 others.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S FOUR MEETINGS

Ascot

Going: good to soft (chase course) soft (hurdles)

12.45 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Zaralaska (A Maguire, 10-11 fav); 2, Kurakka (10-1); 3, Soloman (66-1). 10 ran. 11l, 3½l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.00; £1.20, £1.20, £6.50. DF: £9.90. Trio: £133.50. CSF: £9.60.

1.20 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Cool Dawn (A Thornton, 4-1); 2, Glemot (7-2); 3, Couttin (4-1). Aardwolf 7-4 fav. 5 ran. 6l, 3l. R Alner. Tote: £5.10; £1.90, £1.60. DF: £3.40. CSF: £15.50.

1.55 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Real Estate (A Maguire, 5-1); 2, Lawahik (7-1); 3, Sound Appeal (3-1 fav). 11 ran. 6l, 1½l. C Nicholson. Tote: £6.20; £1.50, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £27.90. Trio: £37.30. CSF: £33.88.

2.30 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Simply Dashing (R Dunwoody, 4-1); 2, Fine Thyne (13-2); 3, Or Royal (11-4 fav). 11 ran. 5l, 1½l. T Easterby. Tote: £4.00; £2.10, £2.10, £1.70. DF: £18.30. Trio: £25.00. CSF: £27.79. Tricast: £77.82.

3.05 (2m ch) 1, Chief's Song (R Dunwoody, 7-2); 2, Ground Nut (15-2); 3, Wade Road (9-2). Boardroom Shuffle 11-4 evens fav. 5 ran. 1½l, 4l. S Dow. Tote: £4.00; £1.50, £2.60. DF: £12.30. CSF: £22.47.

3.40 (3m hdle) 1, Name Of Our Father (A Maguire, 100-30); 2, Cadmus Set (6-1); 3, Influence Pedler (8-1). Couchant 11-4 fav. 8 ran. 17l, 3½l. P Bowen. Tote: £5.40; £1.30, £2.30. DF: £5.90. CSF: £15.93.

Jackpot: £8,506.10 (part won. Pool of £10,782.48 carried forward to Catterick).

Placepot: £155.80. Quadpot: £17.20

Aintree

Going: good to soft

1.05 (2m ch) 1, Storm Run (T J Murphy, 9-4 fav); 2, Bramblebery (8-1); 3, Holders Hill (9-1). 9 ran. 4l, ¾l. P Nicholls. Tote: £2.60; £1.60, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £7.70. Trio: £12.80. CSF: £18.65. Tricast: £110.15.

1.35 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Good Vibes (G Bradley, 5-4 fav); 2, Khalidi (14-1); 3, Golden (9-1). 6 ran. NR: Chai-Yo. 11l, 3½l. T Easterby. Tote: £2.00; £1.20, £3.00. DF: £11.70. CSF: £15.22.

2.10 (3m 3f ch) 1, Samlee (R Farrant, 6-1); 2, Court Melody (7-1); 3, Valiant Warrior (11-1). Sounds Strong (I) 7-2 fav. 11 ran. NR: Stormtracker. 2l, 2½l. P Hobbs. Tote: £6.60; £1.60, £2.50, £2.30. DF: £24.30. Trio: £71.50. CSF: £41.33. Tricast: £405.23.

2.45 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Noisy Miner (R Johnson, evens fav); 2, Eurospray (11-2); 3, Lotschberg Express (12-1). 5 ran. 13l, 13l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.90; £1.20, £1.90. DF: £3.00. CSF: £6.76.

3.15 (2m 6f ch) 1, With Impunity (Mr J Tizzard, 7-2); 2, Flapjack Lad (5-1); 3, Pink Gin (10-1). Inch Emperor 100-30 fav. 7 ran. Dist, 20l. P Nicholls. Tote: £4.40; £2.00, £2.30. DF: £17.50. CSF: £18.02.

3.50 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Namoodaj (R Johnson, 4-5 fav); 2, Bend Wavy (16-1); 3, Tracceability (6-1). 8 ran. NR: Lombardic. 10l, 8l. D Nicholson. Tote: £1.80; £1.30, £2.60. DF: £10.30. CSF: £13.75.

Placepot: £60.70 Quadpot: £18.10.

Catterick

1.00 1, Jessica One (5-6 fav); 2, Card Again (50-1); 3, Delightfool (25-1). 15 ran.

1.30 1, Dissington Times (10-1); 2, Fortune Hunter (7-1); 3, Haver Golf Charmer (7-1). Mon Performer 9-4 fav. 11 ran.

2.05 1, Shining Edge (2-1); 2, Fryup Satellite (16-1); 3, Tom Brodie (7-4 fav). 7 ran.

2.35 1, Saucy Nun (9-2); 2, Nosam (9-2); 3, Cash Box (7-1). Acajou III 11-8 fav. 7 ran.

3.10 1, Coraton Joker (5-2 fav); 2, Golden Hello (7-2); 3, Tapatch (4-1). 8 ran.

3.45 1, Ballaeshidden (9-2); 2, Perpetual Light (9-2); 3, My Shenandoah (6-1). Appearance Money 4-1 jt-fav. 10 ran.

Market Rasen

12.50 1, River Bay (1-2 fav); 2, Aide Memoire (3-1); 3, Owens Quest (13-2). 4 ran.

1.25 1, Haver Golf Diamond (7-1); 2, Moga Tid (7-1); 3, Song For Jess (7-2). Oakbury 5-2 fav. 6 ran. NR: Aldeon Sun.

1.55 1, No Gimmicks (100-30); 2, Brush Me Up (12-1); 3, Into The Swing (2-1 fav). 11 ran.

2.25 1, Mr Fudge (9-2); 2, In Truth (9-2); 3, Know-No-No (8-15 fav). 4 ran.

3.00 1, Bossenhally (9-1); 2, Tudor Fellow (8-1); 3, Santmorello (2-1 fav). 12 ran.

3.35 1, Laredo (evens fav); 2, Swynford Pride (7-2); 3, Stonesby (9-2). 7 ran.

RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
LUDLOW 101 201
CATTERICK 102 202
SOUTHWELL 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168
Calls cost 50p per minute at all times. IMS, Leeds LS1 8LB

LEADER OVER THE JUMPS

TRAINERS	1st	2nd	3rd	Days since win	Level stakes
M Pipe	92	52	24	3	-0.12
D Nicholson	45	17	19	2	+32.88
Mrs M Reveley	31	19	17	2	-10.41
P Hobbs	30	18	21	2	-37.48
P Bowen	27	27	30	2	-3.02
P Nicholls	25	16	12	2	+15.36
Mrs S Smith	22	28	21	8	-47.12
K Bailey	20	13	18	3	+34.96

JOCKEYS	1st	2nd	3rd	Losing sequence	Level stakes
A P McCoy	124	79	42	3	-27.22
A Maguire	72	44	32	0	-12.29
R Dunwoody	45	31	23	1	-26.78
R Johnson	44	52	40	0	-39.67
A Thornton	30	24	42	1	-63.32
P Niven	29	19	17	1	-16.15
M A Fitzgerald	26	25	17	5	-14.01
R Guest	25	35	21	7	-36.25

LUDLOW

THUNDERER
12.50 Brighstone
1.20 Wandering Light
1.50 Todd
2.20 Camp Bank
2.50 Albemarle
3.20 Hisar
3.50 Sunday Venture

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 *GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-8* .. B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Timekeeper's speed rating

GOING: GOOD SIS

12.50 CRAVEN ARMS SELLING HURDLE (£2,010: 2m) (18 runners)

1 -R12624 ALBEMINE 7 (D,F) (A Price) R Juckes 8-12-1 .. Mr O McPhail (7) 96
2 21 BRIGHSTONE 6 (S) (R Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 4-11-9 .. A P McCoy 93
3 1 STEAM ON 35 (G) (Gallagher Equine Ltd) Mrs L Jewell 6-11-9 .. J Goldstein (7) 80
4 221/22- AAL EL AAL 305 (BF,D,S) (Mrs C Hale) P Hobbs 10-11-3 .. G Tormey [illegible]
5 BOB THE MECHANIC (James Creamer) J Neville 8-11-3 .. T Dascombe –
6 0 FINAL STAB 9 (Mrs S Dwyer) C Dwyer 4-11-3 .. W McFarland –
7 PP/P-03 HAYDOWN 6 (E Phillips) M R Bosley 5-11-3 .. Mr P Phillips (7) 50
8 05 IRISH SEA 6 (Salvo Giannini) B Llewellyn 4-11-3 .. B Powell 65
9 P- JOLTO 345 (P Barclay) W Jenks 8-11-3 .. T Jenks –
10 KATATONIC 329F (Sadlers Estate Agents) Mrs L Jewell 4-11-3 .. D Leahy –
11 054/053 *NEVEROLD 14 (D,S) (White Family) M Meggendge 7-11-3* .. S Curran 77
12 2/05/PP PORRIDGE HILL 19 (J Batchelor) J Batchelor 7-11-3 .. S Fox –
13 FP-0PP0 SWEETLY DISPOSED 11 (T Eager) C Jones 9-11-3 .. L Suthern (7) 55
14 3 ZAHAALIE 18 (C Wroe) J Pickering 5-11-3 .. W Marston 70
15 50/40 AMONG ISLANDS 25 (R Hughes) R Lee 6-10-12 .. Mr S Durack (5) 74
16 5/50/P MEADOW DANCER 12 (J Pointon) Miss S Wilton 6-10-12 .. N Williamson –
17 FLAHIVE'S FIRST 411F (Miss N A Showers) D Burchell 3-10-5 .. D J Burchell –
18 5 *MY ROLAND 15 (Mrs D Hamilton) J Ffitch-Heyes 3-10-5* .. A Maguire –

BETTING: 11-4 Aal El Aal, 3-1 Brighstone, 7-1 Albemine, 8-1 Steam On, 12-1 Haydown, Neverold, 14-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING

FORM FOCUS Albemine 21l 4th of 7 to Lansdowne in conditional jockeys claiming hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, soft). Brighstone beat Coeur *Battant 2l in 8-runner selling hurdle at Newton Abbot* (2m 1f, soft) with Haydown (6lb better off) 13l 3rd and Irish Sea (6lb better off) beaten a distance 5th. Steam On beat Albemine (9lb better off) neck in 7-runner claiming hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good). Aal El Aal 1l 2nd of 5 to Khalidi in handicap chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft). Neverold 7l 3rd of 9 to Memory's Music in selling handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Zahaalie 17l 3rd of 9 to Salts Legend in selling hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft). My Roland 32l 5th of 12 to Golden Melody in novice selling hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm)

BRIGHSTONE hacked up at Newton Abbot and looks a good thing to follow up

1.20 MILES MACADAM NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,178: 3m) (11 runners)

1 /5/00-1 WANDERING LIGHT 12 (D,G,S) (Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 8-12-0 .. R Johnson [illegible]
2 63/F0P- COOL RUNNER 277 (B,S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 7-11-13 .. G Bradley –
3 13/0-P0 FRENCH BUCK 17 (B,G) (Mrs C Scott) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-6 .. C Llewellyn 69
4 -51P1F2 SAXON MEAD 17 (C,F) (H Catherwood) P Hobbs 7-11-4 .. B Powell 98
5 50331-6 WOT NO GIN 17 (F) (Up & Running Partnership) A J Wilson 8-11-2 P Carberry 66
6 3002-23 FRENO 13 (BF) (P Matthews) K Bailey 6-10-6 .. N Williamson 102
7 *4/56F-0 CLONTOURA 15 (D,G) (Mr & Mrs J Poynton) I Williams 9-10-3* .. A P McCoy –
8 12/P4-F HOPPERDANTE 9 (D,S) (M Perkins) T George 7-10-0 .. T J Murphy –
9 /PP6FP/ BORD HILL 869 (R Allsop) Miss P Whittle 8-10-0 .. W Marston –
10 04F3645 TOTAL ASSET 17 (T Forbes) A Forbes 7-10-0 .. Gary Lyons 98
11 FP/P41/ MUTCH LARK 954P (D,F) (P Andrews) J Bradley 12-10-0 .. D J Kavanagh (5) –

Long handicap: Total Asset 9-13, Mutch Lark 9-10.

BETTING: 11-8 Wandering Light, 11-2 Saxon Mead, 6-1 Freno, 7-1 Clontoura, 8-1 Wot No Gin, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Wandering Light beat Henry Cone 9l in 10-runner novice chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, good). Saxon Mead 13l 2nd of 8 to Glamanglitz in novice handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good) with Total Asset (13lb better off) 25l 5th, Wot-No Gin (levels) 50l 6th and French Buck (5lb better off) 53l 7th. Freno 10l 3rd of 6 to Grundon in novice handicap chase at Ludlow (2m, good). Clontoura 36l 7th of 12 to Relative Chance in novice handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good).

WANDERING LIGHT is open to any amount of improvement and looks a banker

1.50 LEVY BOARD NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,374: 2m) (13 runners)

1 045P- IMPENDING DANGER 21F (Oatleigh Construction) K Bridgwater 4-11-10 D Bridgwater 88
2 P5P-64 HEART 12 (C & S Basher) Miss H Knight 4-11-0 .. M A Fitzgerald 92
3 24536 INDIAN NECTAR 48 (Mrs C Newman) R Brotherton 4-10-11 .. L Harvey 79
4 464-P COMEONUP 5 (M Carver) J Bradley 6-10-8 .. Miss V Roberts (7) –
5 232 BERYLLIUM 19 (M Jones) M Pipe 3-10-6 .. A P McCoy [112]
6 *142F15 LE GRAND GOUSIER 39 (B,BF,D,F) (Mrs S Davies) R J Price 3-10-6* A Maguire 107
7 4424224 MARGI BOO 7 (S B I Racing) M Sheppard 4-10-4 .. R Johnson 86
8 150FP-4 NORTH END LADY 14 (D,F) (J Sullivan) Mrs L Jewell 6-10-2 .. J R Kavanagh 80
9 200P-0 TODD 12 (A Harvey) A H Harvey 6-10-1 .. J A McCarthy 94
10 53120 REAL FIRE 17 (D,F) (M Sanders) M Meagher 3-10-1 .. R Thornton (3) 103
11 0FP-6 SHAWKEY 13 (C Bigley Partnership Ltd) D McCain 4-10-0 .. P Carberry 80
12 0030-05 BE IN SPACE 16 (T Bailey) Miss P Whittle 6-10-0 .. W Marston 80
13 *050P-63 OUT OF THE BLUE 12 (M Eckley) M Eckley 5-10-0* .. Sophie Mitchell (5) 95

Long handicap: Shawkey 9-11, Be In Space 9-9, Out Of The Blue 9-5.

BETTING: 7-4 Beryllium, 7-1 Heart, Real Fire, 8-1 Le Grand Gousier, 10-1 Out Of The Blue, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Indian Nectar 33l 6th of 8 to Totally Yours in novice handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, good). Beryllium 5l 2nd of 15 to *Leviticus in novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, good). Le Grand* Gousier 7¼l 5th of 10 to Gray Pastel in novice claiming hurdle at Taunton (2m 1f, good to firm). Margi Boo 19l 4th of 15 to Cointosser in selling hurdle at Leicester (2m, good to soft). North End Lady 28l 4th of 9 to Guest Alliance in maiden hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft). Real Fire 72l 10th of 11 to Distant Storm in con nov handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good). Shawkey 48l 6th of 8 to Midas in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Be In Space 17l 5th of 9 to Flatterbud in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Out Of The Blue 11l 3rd of 10 to Alpine Joker in novice handicap hurdle at Worcester (2m, good) with Heart (3lb worse off) 11l 4th and Todd (1lb worse off) 48l 8th.

BERYLLIUM was a decent Flat horse and looks to have got in on a favourable mark

2.20 VISCOUNT BOYNE MEMORIAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,420: 3m 3f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 -114112 MUTUAL AGREEMENT 12 (BF,F,G,S) (E Darke) P Nicholls 10-11-10 L Cummins (5) 120
2 1-41341 THE WHOLE HOG 7 (D,F) (Mrs H Dufley) K Bailey 8-11-6 (7ex) N Williamson 114
3 61P0-41 SIDEOFHILL 13 (B,D,G,S) (J McManus) J J O'Neill 8-11-5 .. P Carberry 117
4 2P4-322 MISTER GEBO 58 (D,F,G) (Miss C Dyson) Miss C Dyson 12-10-5 Miss C Dyson [illegible]
5 01/P4-5 BALLYEDWARD 25 (F) (N Elliott) R Buckler 7-10-4 .. B Powell 107
6 56516-0 CAPTIVA BAY 24 (C,F) (Miss M De Quincey) Mrs A Hewitt 8-10-0 .. S Wynne 84
7 400/30- CAMP BANK 387 (Mrs J Mould) N Twiston-Davies 7-10-0 .. C Llewellyn –

Long handicap: Camp Bank 9-10.

BETTING: 2-1 Sideofhill, 9-4 Mutual Agreement, 7-2 The Whole Hog, 10-1 Camp Bank, Ballyedward, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Mutual Agreement 2l 2nd of 4 to Laughing Fontaine in novice handicap chase at Newbury (3m, good to firm). The Whole Hog beat Alaskan Heir 2l in 3-runner handicap chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, good to firm). Sideofhill beat Tudor Fellow 4l in 8-runner handicap chase at Sedgefield (3m 3f, good). Mister Gebo 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Gerry's Pride in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, firm). Ballyedward 31l 5th of 8 to Domaine De Pron in handicap chase at Stratford (3m 4f, good). *Camp Bank 32l 7th of 9 to Potter's Bay in novice handicap chase at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, good).*

THE WHOLE HOG was cruising for most of the way at Leicester and can win again

2.50 BUCKNELL NOVICES HURDLE (£2,346: 2m 5f 110yd) (8 runners)

1 *0/1-F ALBERMARLE 16 (BF,G) (R Ogden) T Forster 6-11-5* .. P Carberry [illegible]
2 2-0 CHURCHTOWN GLEN 24 (J & C Tipton) S Brookshaw 4-10-12 .. C Maude –
3 00/240- DARK ORCHARD 283 (T Parrott) I Williams 5-10-12 .. A P McCoy 105
4 116/2 IN THE BLOOD 16 (BF,G,S) (J Shaw) P Hobbs 6-10-12 .. G Tormey 107
5 0C-4 MICHIGAN BLUE 30 (P Howell) W Jenks 5-10-12 .. T Jenks 90
6 U0 SEVERN REEF 24 (T Hadley) J Bradley 6-10-12 .. B Powell 60
7 5400- THE CROPPY BOY 255 (Winterbourne Plant Ltd) J Neville 5-10-12 T Dascombe –
8 *000-405 FOLESCLAVE 13 (Marlborough Racing) J King 5-10-7* .. J R Kavanagh 58

BETTING: 13-8 In The Blood, 15-8 Albermarle, 5-1 Churchtown Glen, 6-1 Dark Orchard, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Albermarle fell in novice hurdle at Chepstow (3m, good to soft). Churchtown Glen 35l 7th of 17 to Muskhill in NH flat race at Bangor (2m 1f, good) with Severn Reef (levels) 69l 16th. Dark Orchard beaten a distance 8th of 11 to Queen Of Spades *in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd,* good to soft). In The Blood 3l 2nd of 9 to Flatterbud in novice hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Michigan Blue 22l 4th of 6 to Rowington in novice hurdle at Worcester (2m 2f, good to firm). Folesclave 46l 5th of 8 to Midas in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good).

ALBEMARLE is well thought of and this is a poor race

3.20 NOVEMBER NOVICES CHASE (£2,918: 2m) (7 runners)

1 42/654- GET REAL 247 (S) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 6-11-2 M A Fitzgerald –
2 D44353 JUST FOR A REASON 17 (D,G) (A Price) R Juckes 5-11-2 .. Gary Lyons 90
3 2/P3P-2 MANVULANE 32 (Mrs C Black) Mrs C Black 7-11-2 .. S Wynne 89
4 23120-4 ROYAL EVENT 18 (D,F,S) (T Whitley) D Gandolfo 6-11-2 .. A Maguire 113
5 15122-2 STEP ON EYRE 10 (D,G,S) (Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 7-11-2 R Johnson [illegible]
6 /B5PP4- KNOWING 238 (S) (P Watkins) P Watkins 10-10-11 .. Miss E James (7) –
7 0022-1 HISAR 61 (D,G) (Lady Lloyd Webber) C Brooks 4-10-6 .. G Bradley –

BETTING: 9-4 Hisar, 5-2 Step On Eyre, 7-2 Get Real, 6-1 Royal Event, 7-1 Manvulane, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Get Real 12l 4th of 18 to Quality in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Just For A Reason 28l 3rd of 6 to Listen Timmy in *novice chase at Uttoxeter (2m, good). Manvulane* 4l 2nd of 6 to Northern Starlight in novice chase at Ludlow (2m 4f, good to firm). Royal Event 31l 4th of 8 to Wilde Music in novice chase at Towcester (2m 110yd, good to soft). Step On Eyre 1l 2nd of 8 to Dontleavethenest in novice chase at Exeter (2m 3f, good to soft). Hisar beat Kedge Anchor Man 3l in 9-runner novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good)

ROYAL EVENT will improve a good deal for his reappearance

3.50 LEOMINSTER STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,245: 2m) (15 runners)

1 1-1 CASTLE OWEN 16 (D,G) (Lord Vestey) D Nicholson 5-12-0 .. R Thornton (3) –
2 41- *MAZILEO 240 (F) (Mrs H Parrott) I Williams 4-11-11* .. A P McCoy –
3 21- SUNDAY VENTURE 255 (G) (F Sainsbury) N Henderson 5-11-11 M A Fitzgerald –
4 BASSEY (Barrow Boys) N Henderson 4-11-4 .. T C Murphy (7) –
5 5 BIBURY COURT 24 (H Davies) K Bailey 5-11-4 .. N Williamson –
6 5-0 DUTY FREE 24 (Mrs F Harvey) A H Harvey 4-11-4 .. J A McCarthy –
7 GREAT WOLF (F Phillips) T Wall 4-11-4 .. Gary Lyons –
8 0 KARZHANG 24 (J Beasley) W Jenks 5-11-4 .. T Jenks –
9 *6 LOOK SHARPER 30 (Against All Odds Partnership) R Buckler 4-11-4* B Powell –
10 MINER'S BILL (Wish Racing) J King 6-11-4 .. S Houghton (7) –
11 ROYAL VALOR (R Spencer) J Ffitch-Heyes 5-11-4 .. J Goldstein (7) –
12 5 SNOWBOY 66 (G Brookes) R Lee 5-11-4 .. A Maguire –
13 2/5 TRANELCO 13 (J Pointon & Sons) Miss S Wilton 6-11-4 .. R Johnson –
14 WILLET WIZARD (D Stephens) Miss V Stephens 4-11-4 .. Miss V Stephens –
15 ADVENTURE PRINCESS (I Hannant) G Barnett 4-10-13 *Mr K R O'Ryan (7)* –

BETTING: 11-8 Castle Owen, 3-1 Sunday Venture, 7-2 Mazileo, 10-1 Bassey, 12-1 Bibury Court, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS Castle Owen beat Mite Equal 7l in NH flat race at Wincanton (2m, good). Mazileo beat Abigails Star 2l in maiden NH flat at Newton Abbot (2m 1f, good to firm). Sunday Venture beat Shebang 3½l in NH flat race at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good). Bibury Court 29l *5th of 17 to Muskhill in NH flat* race at Bangor (2m 1f, good) with Karzhang (levels) 47l 11th and Duty Free (levels) 55l 12th. Look Sharper 23l 6th of 17 to Bigsound in NH flat race at Market Rasen (1m 5f 110yd, good). Snowboy 18l 5th of 11 to Latin Mistress in NH flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm). Tranelco 19l 5th of 10 to Presidentree in NH flat race at Ludlow (2m, good).

CASTLE OWEN is potentially smart and can defy a double penalty

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Henderson	8	23	34.8	A P McCoy	14	53	26.4
D Nicholson	21	77	27.5	N Williamson	14	66	21.2
K Bailey	22	82	26.8	D Burchell	5	24	20.8
M Pipe	24	91	26.4	A Maguire	20	100	20.0
Miss P Whittle	3	15	20.0	C Maude	5	27	18.5

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

CROSS-COUNTRY: Gateshead: International meeting: Senior men: 6.9km: 1, L Kipkosgei (Ken) 19min 07sec; 2, W Omwoyo (Ken) 19:46; 3, A Pearson (Longwood Harriers) 19:46; 4, C Robison (Shettleston Harriers) 19:48; 5, D Donnelly (Annadale Striders) 19:51; 6, D Bannister (Shaftsbury) 19:56. **Senior men open: 3.5km:** 1, L Kipkosgei (Ken) 10:03; 2, M Openshaw (Chester-le-Street) 10:20; 3, J Moorhouse (Birchfield Harriers) 10:28; 4, S Green (Trafford AC) 10:30; 5, B Hussain (Stockport Harriers) 10:32; 6, B Farran (Sparta North West) 10:33. **Senior men: 1.9km:** 1, A Pearson (Longwood Harriers) 5:06; 2, J Moorhouse (Birchfield Harriers) 5:07; 3, L Venesa (Brighton and Hove) 5:10; 4, J Tonner (Johnnie Walker, Kilmarnock) 5:10; 5, D Spawforth (Wakefield Harriers) 5:12; 6, J Lobo (unattached) 5:15. **Senior women: 5.2km:** 1, J Marange (Ken) 16:56; 2, V McPherson (City of Glasgow) 17:19; 3, L Wright (Leeds City) 17:21; 4, M Myers (Parkside AC) 17:26; 5, P Thackray (Hallamshire Harriers) 17:34.

ROAD RUNNING: Monaco: Marathon: Men: 1, E Bitok (Ken) 2hr 12min 28sec; 2, A Salah (Djibouti) 2:12 44; 3, M Nazhipov (Russ) 2:13.10; 4, A Muindi (Ken) 2:13.10; 5, G Kinyua (Ken) 2:13.35; 6, S Kaledina (Russ) 2:13.58; 7, G Calvaresi (It) 2:15.11; 8, P Arpin (Fr) 2:16.18; 9, E Korir (Ken) 2:16.42; 10, R Crosio (It) 2:17.02. **Women:** 1, M Viceconte (It) 2:28.16; 2, I Kazakova (Fr) 2:30 40; 3, U Jehziner (Switz) 2:34.04

BADMINTON

HANOI: Vietnam championships: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: K Jonassen (Den) bt T Johansson (Swe) 15-4, 18-16; Chen Gang (China) bt A Wiranata (Indo) 15-4, 15-8; A B Kusuma (Indo) bt Y Suprayogi (Indo) 15-6, 15-3; Luo Yigang (China) bt H Bengsson (Swe) 7-15, 15-12, 15-4. **Semi-finals:** Chen bt Jonassen 15-11, 15-4; Kusuma bt Luo 15-9, 6-15, 17-14. **Women: Singles: Quarter-finals:** S Susanti (Indo) bt Yao Yan (China) 7-11, 12-10, 11-5; Kim Ji-Hyun (S Kor) bt M Pedersen (Den) 11-4, 11-7; Chen Ya-Lin (Taiwan) bt Zeng Yaqiong (China) 4-11, 12-11, 11-9; Xu Hue Wen (China) bt A Sondergaard (Den) 11-2, 11-2. **Semi-finals:** Susanti (Indo) bt Kim (S Kor) 11-2, 11-4; Xu bt Chan 11-6, 11-9.

EDINBURGH: Scottish international championships: Men's singles: First round: S Pandya (Staffordshire) bt M Hughes (Wales) 15-8, 15-2; H Bach (US) bt E Garcia (Sp) 15-5, 17-18; G Lewis (Wales) bt S Solveson (Ice) 15-10, 15-4; P Jeffrey (Essex) bt C Robertson (Scot) 15-11, 18-17; P Vaneste (Bel) bt K Odum (Den) 10-15, 15-11, 15-12; C Davies (Wales) bt N Waterman (Kent) 15-2, 15-12; T Wapp (Switz) bt J Mailer (Scot) 10-15, 15-11, 15-11; R Doling (Kent) bt J Lewis (Berkshire) 15-10, 15-1; A South (Nottinghamshire) bt J Kool (Holl) 15-11, 15-10; R Sperre (Nor) bt M Edge (Lancashire) 18-15, 15-8; J Leung (Wal) bt G Hurrell (Hampshire) 15-11, 17-14; B Flockhart (Scot) bt J Mads (Den) 15-9, 15-0; M Martha (US) bt M Tarey (Sp) 15-3, 15-8; T Weistra (Holl) bt S Paisley (Scot) 17-18, 15-4, 15-9; S Isaac (Sussex) bt T Nielsen (Ice) 15-11, 15-7; M Beres (Can) bt M Bundgaard (Switz) 15-8, 8-15, 18-14. **Second round:** Pandya bt Bach 13-15, 15-11, 15-8; Jeffrey bt G Lewis 15-12, 13-15, 15-12; Vanneste bt Davies 8-15, 15-6, 15-7; Sperre bt South 15-8, 15-8; Flockhart bt Leung 15-3, 15-1; Wapp bt Doling 14-18, 15-10, 18-15; Weistra bt Martha 15-3, 15-8; Beres bt Isaac 15-10, 18-14. *Quarter-finals: Pandya bt Jeffrey 18-16, 15-3; Wapp bt Vanneste 15-5, 15-4;* Sperre bt Flockhart 15-6, 15-10; Weistra bt Beres 15-10, 15-2. **Semi-finals:** Pandya bt Wapp 18-17, 15-4; Weistra bt Sperre 15-3, 15-18, 18-16. **Final:** Weistra bt Pandya 15-7, 9-15, 15-11. **Women's singles: First round:** R Pantaney (Gloucestershire) bt S Wibowo (Switz) 11-7, 11-8; E Cann (Jersey) bt D Craig (Scot) 11-0, 11-5; J Wilmott (Yorkshire) bt L Reid (Scot) 11-1, 11-5; S McGinn (Ire) bt K McEwan (Scot) 5-11, 11-7, 11-1; T Dineen (Essex) bt S Watts (Scot) 11-7, 9-12, 11-4; A Weckstrom (Fin) bt S Bassett (Scot) 11-4, 11-0; F Sneddon (Scot) bt A Reed (Berkshire) 11-6, 11-3; G Martin (Scot) bt J Baulmeyer (Switz) 11-3, 11-4; K Graham (Scot) bt P Harrison (Essex) 11-0, 11-4. **Second round:** Pantaney w/o A Gibson (Scot); Cann bt A Ferrer (Sp) 11-0, 11-9; K Solmundson (Can) bt Wilmott 11-3, 11-7; McGinn bt K Brydon (Buckinghamshire) 11-5, 11-6; Weckstrom bt Dineen 8-11, 11-4, 11-1; D Marco (Sp) bt Sneddon 11-4, 10-12, 11-8; Martin bt J Pittard (Warwickshire) 11-1, 11-4; *J Mann (Warwickshire) bt Graham* 11-4, 11-2. **Quarter-Finals:** Pantaney bt Cann 11-8, 11-3; Solmundson bt McGinn 11-1, 7-11, 11-7; Weckstrom bt Marco 11-8, 11-2; Mann bt Martin 12-9, 11-4. **Semi-finals:** Pantaney bt Solmundson 11-5, 11-3; Mann bt Weckstrom 11-14, 11-2. **Final:** Mann bt Pantaney 11-5, 11-3

BILLIARDS

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria UK championship: Final: G Sethi (India) bt R Chapman (Eng) 898-293.

BOXING

BOWLERS, Manchester: European flyweight championship: D Guerault (Fr, holder) bt A Lewis (Bury) rsc 4th. **Heavyweight** (8rnds): K McBride (Clones) bt Y Yelistratov (Ukr) rtc 1st. **Light-heavyweight** (8rnds): L Whitehead (Manchester) drew with K Burton (Doncaster). **Light-middleweight** (4rnds): G Booth (Manchester) bt W Shepherd (Carlisle) pts. (4rnds): S Foster (Salford) bt P Mercier (Fr) pts. **Lightweight** (6rnds): B Vanse (Manchester) bt K Taylor (Birmingham) pts. **Super-featherweight** (6rnds): T Tonchev (Bul) bt J T Kelly (Hartlepool) pts. **Flyweight** (4rnds) D Kelly (Belfast) bt B Ivanov (Bul) ko 1st.

ATLANTIC CITY, Trump Taj Mahal: Heavyweight: S Briggs (US) bt G Foreman (US) pts. **Middleweight:** D. Reid (US Olympic Gold medalist) bt D Connolly (US) rsc 5th

OSAKA, Japan: World Boxing Council bantamweight championship: J Tatsuyoshi (Japan) bt S Nakornthom-Parkview (Thai, holder) rsc 7th. **World Boxing Association flyweight championship:** J Bonilla of Venezuela (Ven, holder) bt K Yamaguchi (Japan) 6th.

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: Open London championship (Addington Hills, Croydon, 24 kilometres): 1, N Craig (Diamond Back) 1hr 4min 55sec; 2, N Claryssa (Bel) at 58sec; 3, R Hammond (Palmans) 1min 10sec. **Ashfield RC** (Notts and Derbys League, eighth round, Sutton Lawns, 10 miles): 1, T Gould (Schwinn-Toyota) 55min 19sec; 2, C Ansley (Hope Technology) 12sec; 3, D Booth (Ace RT) 2min 0sec. **De Montfort CC** (Western Park, Leicester, 11 miles): 1, D Atkins (Coventry RC) 49:58; 2, S Knight (Peugeot 405) 55sec; 3, P Wright (Ace RT) 2:00. **Reading CC** (Wokefield Common, 11 miles): 1, A Butt (Hargroves Cycles) 54.38; 2, M Messenger (Oxonian CC) 38sec; 3, R Wilmott (New Forest CC) 49sec. **Mersey RC** (Otterspool Park, Liverpool, 12 miles): 1, S Green (Oldham Century RC) 56 41; 2, M Bailey (Team Chevin) 1:20; 3, D BRailsford (Giant RT) 1:50. **Eastway Supporters' League** (East London, 18 miles): 1, R Parkins (Elmy Cycles) 59.21; 2, B Curtis (Comdon) 1:10; 3, C Thompson (Elmy) 1:35. **Thistle Cyclesport** (Balloch, Strathclyde, 15 miles): 1, A Wright (Sandy Wallace Cycles) 55:30; 2, C Hardie (Sandy Wallace Cycles) 3:00; 3, J McBain (Sandy Wallace Cycles) 3:30. **Stretford Wheelers** (Northern Moor, Manchester, 10 miles): 1, M Bailey (Team Chevin) 1:05:00; 2, I Cuthbertson (Raleigh) 55sec; 3, P Whatmough (ABC Centreville) 3:25. **MTS Cycle Sport** (Durham, 11 miles): 1, S Ward (VC Azzurri) 55:45; 2, A Nixon (Cycle Force) 1:40; 3, M Robinson (Cleveland MBC) 2:10.

TRACK: British Universities SA championships (Manchester Velodrome): **Individual 4,000m pursuit:** A Crachlow (Bradford) 4min 51.865sec. **Sprint:** A McMath (Salford). **Kilometre TT:** A McMath 1:08.237. **Kelrin:** A McMath. **Team pursuit:** Manchester 4 44.091. **Olympic sprint:** Salford. **Women: Individual 3,000m pursuit:** R Arstone (Manchester) 4 10.330. **Sprint:** R Arstone. **500m TT:** R Arstone 41 430. **5km scratch:** R Arstone.

ROAD RACES: Twickenham CC Winter Series (first round, Hillingdon, 45 kilometres): 1, D Griffiths (Twickenham CC) 48.00; 2, M McManus (Twickenham CC) 1sec; 3, R. Wise (unattached) 35sec

EQUESTRIANISM

BERLIN: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1, Burg's Mister Blue (B Romp, Holl) clear, 31.36 sec; 2, Calvaro (W Melliger, Switz) clear, 33.75; 3, Esprit (L Nieberg, Ger) clear, 34.50. **British:** 5, Senator Tees Hanauer (R Smith) clear 35.21

FIGURE SKATING

ST PETERSBURG, Russia: Russia Champions Series: Final positions: Men: 1, A Yagudin (Russ) 1.5 factored placements; 2, E Plushenko (Russ) 3.0; 3, V Zagorodniuk (Ukr) 4.5; 4, M Weiss (US) 6.0; 5, S Vidra (Hun) 8.0; 6, L Tobel (Fr) 8.5. **Ice dance:** 1, A Krylova and O Ovsiannikov (Russ) 2.0; 2, I Lobacheva and I Averbukh (Russ) 4.0; 3, T Navka and N Morozov (Bela) 6.0; 4, A Semenovich and V Fedorov (Russ) 8.0; 5, E Chalom and M Gates (US) 11.0; 6, M-F Dubreuil and P Lauzon (Canada) 11.0

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Boardman and Eccles 7 Mellor 7; Heaton Mersey 12 Old Waconians 8; Poynton 4 Timperley 15; Hulmeians 4 Stockport 13. **Postponed:** Sheffield University v Cheadle Hulme. **Second division:** Rochdale 5 Nottingham University 18; Sale 3 Cheadle 16; Sheffield Steelers 14 Heaton Mersey A 6; Ashton 9 Wilmslow 20; Stockport A 16 Stopfordians 2. **Third division:** Mellor A 15 Stockport B 9; Oldham and Werneth 15 Leeds University 3; Old Waconians A 11 Norbury 13; Timperley A 10 Poynton A 1; Cheadle Hulme A 3 Hulmeians A 7; Heaton Mersey Guild 7 Boardman and Eccles A 12

SHEFFIELD: British University Sports Association women's tournament: Final positions: 1, Loxbridge; 2, South; 3, North; 4, Scotland; 5, Midlands; 6 Wales

LUGE

SIGULDA, Latvia: World Cup: Singles: 1, A Zoggeler (It) (49.811sec, 49.334) 1min 39.945sec; 2, A Demchenko (Russ) (49.782, 49.499) 1:39.281; 3, N Huber (It) (49.893, 49.595) 1:39.488; 4, M Kleinherz (Austria) (43.991, 49.973) 1:39.964; 5, G Gleirscher (Austria) (50.301, 49.731) 1:40.032; 6, L Dolan (US) (50.261, 49.909) 1:40.170. **Leading World Cup positions:** 1, Zoggeler 35pts; 2, Demchenko 32; 3, Huber 30; 4, Kleinherz 29; 5, Gleirscher 26; 6, Dolan 25. **Men: Doubles:** 1, M Grimmette and B Martin (US) (43.603, 43.831) 1:27.434; 2, K Brugger and W Huber (It) (43.796, 43.853) 1:27.649; 3, C Thorpe and G Sheer (US) (43.733, 43.980) 1:27.712; 4, A Demchenko and S Kochbaev (Russ) (43.891 and 43.910) 1:27.801; 5, G Plankensteiner and O Haseneder (It) (43.771 and 44.140) 1:27.911; 6, D Tenhaber and V Kneib (Russ) (44.059 and 44.323) 1:28.382. **Leading World Cup positions:** 1, Grimmette and Martin 35; 2, Brugger and Huber 32; 3, Thorpe and Sheer 30; 4, Demchenko and Seman 26; 5, Plankensteiner and *Haseneder 26; 6, Tenhaber and Kneib 25.* **Women: Single:** 1, C Myler (US) (44.023, 43.947) 1:27.970; 2, Weissensteiner (It) (43.906, 44.227) 1:28.133; 3, S Wiedemann (Ger) (44.347, 43.829) 1:28.176; 4, E Warren (US) (44.114, 44.069) 1:28.182; 5, N Obkircher (It) (43.940, 44.415) 1:28.355; 6, A Orlova (Lat) (44.360, 44.231) 1:28.591. **Leading World Cup positions:** 1, Myler 35; 2, Weissensteiner 32; 3, Wiedemann 30; 4, Warren 28; 5, Obkircher 26; 6, Orlova 25

NORDIC SKIING

BEITOSTOELEN, Norway: World Cup. Men (10km): 1, B Daehlie (Nor) 23min 27.6sec; 2, V Smirnov (Kaz) 23:37.7; 3, E Jevne (Nor) 23:55.7; 4, H Forsberg (Swe) 23:57.1; equal 5, L Haaland (Swe) and L Buchta (Cz) 24:02.1. **Leading World Cup positions:** 1, Daehlie 100pts; 2, V Smirnov 80; 3, Jevne 60; 4, Forsberg 50; equal 5, Haaland and Buchta (Cz) 45. **Women** (5km): 1, L Lazutina (Russ) 12min 52.6sec; 2, B Martinsen (Nor) 13:01.8; 3, K Neumannova (Cz) 13:06.7. **Leading World Cup positions:** 1, Lazutina 100; 2, Martinsen 80; 3, Neumannova 60; 4, Danilova 50; 5, Moen-Guidon 45; 6, Pyykoenen 40

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: British Land British Open: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals (GB unless stated): R Fahey (Aus) bt N Wood 6-5, 6-3, 6-2; F Filippelli (Aus) bt W Davies (Aus) 6-5 ret; C Bray bt J Snow 2-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 6-5; J Male bt M Gooding 5-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3

RUGBY FIVES

OUNDLE SCHOOL: British Universities Sports Association championship: Singles. Quarter-finals: I Purvis (Liverpool Institute) bt E Brooke (Oxford) 15-2, 16-14; B Ellick (Oxford) bt C Jones (Durham) 15-9, 15-love; P Lord (Oxford) bt P Campbell (Durham) 15-4, 15-7; J McGill (Exeter) bt G Rees (Roehampton) 15-12, 15-2. **Semi-finals:** Purvis bt Ellick 15-12, 15-3; McGill bt Lord 15-13, 15-7. **Final:** Purvis bt McGill 15-2, 15-10. **Doubles: Quarter-finals:** B Ellick and P Lord (Oxford) bt S Maskell and D Twitch (Cambridge) 15-3, 15-6; J McGill and D Tilley (Exeter) bt J McManus and T Ambrose (Oxford) 6-15, 15-8, 15-12; P Campbell and C Jones (Durham) bt J Harrison and C Warren (Oxford) 15-6, 16-14; E Brooke and D Monck (Oxford) bt S Jones and W Townley (Cambridge) 15-0, 15-5. **Semi-finals.** Ellick and Lord bt McGill and Tilley 15-0, 15-5; Campbell and Jones bt Brooke and Monck 15-11, 15-7. **Final:** Ellick and Lord bt Campbell and Jones 16-14, 15-9

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askam 12 Woolston 18; Dudley Hill 9 Leigh Miners 24; Lock Lane 15 Heworth 17; Mayfield 22 Beverley 24; Wigan St Patrick's 26 Saddleworth 17. **Postponed:** Oldham St Annes v Walney Central

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oldham St A	11	10	0	1	235	105	20
Woolston	13	10	0	3	326	217	20
Beverley	12	9	0	3	240	201	18
Leigh Miners	12	7	1	4	275	207	15
Lock Lane	12	7	0	5	216	176	14
Walney Central	11	7	0	4	153	151	14
Egremont	10	6	1	3	213	143	13
Wigan St Pat	11	5	2	4	209	244	12
West Hull	10	5	0	5	196	134	10
Mayfield	12	4	0	8	217	253	8
Heworth	12	3	0	9	192	296	6
Dudley Hill	12	3	0	9	153	309	6
Askam	12	2	0	10	179	308	4
Saddleworth	12	1	0	11	158	328	2

First division: Leigh East 12 Oulton 16; Milford 34 Blackbrook 12; Redhill 48 Millom 8; Shaw Cross 8 Thornhill 26; Wigan St J 34 Moldgreen 22; E Leeds 12 Eastmoor 54

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Redhill	12	10	0	2	403	132	20
Skirlaugh	11	10	0	1	325	125	20
Thornhill	12	10	0	2	359	161	20
Wigan St Judes	11	8	0	3	248	203	16
Millom	12	7	0	5	222	236	14
Leigh East	12	6	0	6	297	265	12
Oulton	12	6	0	6	179	218	12
Shaw Cross	12	5	0	7	225	291	10
Eastmoor	12	5	0	7	261	336	10
Blackbrook	12	4	0	8	193	276	8
Milford	12	4	0	8	237	342	8
Barrow Island	10	3	0	7	143	293	6
Moldgreen	12	2	0	10	228	290	4
East Leeds	12	2	0	10	173	325	4

Second division: London S 26 Dodworth 14; Normanton 22 Dewsbury M 16; York Acorn 5 Eccles 22; Hull 28 Crosfields 22

SHOOTING

LANGKAWI, Malaysia: Second Commonwealth Federation championship: Sport rifle. Pairs. 1, N Huda Baharin and R Bakar (Malaysia) 1,129pts; 2, C Quigley and K Frazer (Aus) 1,123; 3, R Spicer and L Volpe (Eng) 1,112. **Center Fire Pistol: Pairs:** 1, D Moore and B Quick (Aus) 1,157; 2, V Prekash and J Rana (India) 1,156; 3, A MacDonald and F Van Toner (SA) 1,144. **Air Pistol: Women's pairs:** 1, V Powell and A Forder (Aus) 756; 2, C Page and L Elsworth (Eng) 751; 3, F Van Der Wiesen and L Levy (SA) 743. **Skeet: Pairs:** 1, J Robinson and C Bramley (Eng) 184; 2, A Andreau and K Christos (Cyprus) 183; 3, M Thomson and I Marsden (Scot) 183

SKIING

PARK CITY, Utah: World Cup: Men: Slalom: 1, T Stangassinger (Austria) (49.49sec, 49.72) 1min 39.21sec; 2, K Bjornsson (Ice) (50.18, 49.13) 1:39.31; 3, F Jagge (Nor) (49.26, 50.08) 1:39.34; 4, K Aamodt (Nor) (48.72, 50.70) 1:39.42; 5, M von Gruenigen (Switz) (49.16, 50.47) 1:39.63; 6, H-P Buraas (Nor) (49.86, 49.95) 1:39.81. **Leading World Cup positions. Slalom:** 1, Stangassinger 100pts; 2, Bjornsson 80; 3, Jagge 60; 4, Aamodt 50; 5, Von Gruenigen 45; 6, Buraas 40. **Overall:** 1, Aamodt 239; 2, H Maier (Austria) 220; 3, Von Gruenigen 174; 4, J Strobl (Austria) 160; 5, T Stangassinger (Austria) 122; 6, S Locher (Switz) 109. **Women: Giant slalom:** 1, D Compagnoni (It) (1min 26.69sec, 1:25.91) 2:52.60; 2, A Meissnitzer (Austria) (1:29.09, 1:26.92) 2:56.01; 3, A Flemmen (Nor) (1:28.36, 1:28.10) 2:56.46; 4, S Nef (Switz) (1:28.62, 1:27.94) 2:56.57; 5, B Heeb (Liech) (1:28.37, 1:28.53) 2:56.90; 6, M Ertl (Ger) (1:27.67, 1:29.50) 2:57.17. **Leading World Cup positions: Giant slalom:** 1, Compagnoni 200; 2, Ertl 120; equal 3, Meissnitzer and Flemmen 96; 5, K Roten (Switz) 62; 6, Nef 63. **Overall:** 1, Compagnoni 214; 2, Ertl 170; 3, Meissnitzer 156; 4, L Piccard (Fr) 141; 5, Y Nowen (Swe) 109; 6, Flemmen 96

SNOOKER

PRESTON: Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship: Fourth round: S Hendry (Scot) bt A Hamilton (Eng) 9-8; M King (Eng) bt D Morgan (Wales) 9-5. S Lee (Eng) leads N Foulds (Eng) 6-2; M Stevens (Wales) leads M Williams (Wales) 7-1

SQUASH

DOHA: Qatar international: First round: D Jenson (Aus) bt Amjad Khan (Pak) 11-15, 15-14, 11-15, 15-9, 17-15; Jansher Khan (Pak) bt A Wagih (Egypt) 15-14, 15-8, 15-11; A Gough (Wales) bt S Al-Suwaidi (Qatar) 15-8, 15-4, 15-11; P Johnson (Eng) bt A Hill (Aus) 15-4, 15-0, 15-6; G Ryding (Can) bt D Harris (Eng) 10-15, 15-12, 10-15, 15-7, 15-4; C Rowland (Aus) bt K El Mistikawy (Egypt) 15-9, 15-5, 11-15, 15-12; J Power (Can) bt S Meads (Eng) 11-15, 15-11, 15-3, 15-10; A Shabana (Egypt) bt S Parke (Eng) 2-15, 15-12, 8-15, 15-12, 15-9

MIKKELIN: Savcor women's Finnish Open: Quarter-finals: S Horner (Eng) bt H van Hoorn (Holl) 9-0, 9-1, 9-0; T Moss (Wales) bt K Paasivirta (Fin) 9-4, 9-0, 9-0; V Atkinson (Holl) bt S Machie (Scot) 9-5, 9-0, 9-0; J Tranfield (Eng) bt T Miettinen (Fin) 9-4, 9-2, 9-7

TENNIS

HARTFORD, Connecticut: ATP doubles championship (round robin): **Yellow group:** J Eltingh (Holl) and P Haarhuis (Holl) bt M Bhupathi (India) and L Paes (India) 6-3, 6-2; M Bhupathi and L Paes bt T Kronemann (US) and D MacPherson (Aus) 6-4, 7-6; Eltingh and Haarhuis bt E Ferreira (SA) and P Galbraith (US) 7-6, 6-7, 6-2. **Green group:** T Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus) bt R Leach (US) and J Stark (US) 6-3, 6-7, 7-6; Leach and Stark bt D Johnson and F Montana (US) 6-3, 6-4; S Lareau (Can) and A O'Brien (US) bt Woodbridge and Woodforde 7-6, 7-5. **Semi-finals:** Bhupathi and Paes bt Lareau and O'Brien 6-1, 2-6, 7-6; Leach and Stark bt Eltingh and Haarhuis 6-3, 6-4

NEW YORK: WTA chase championships: Singles: Quarter-finals: J Novotna (Cz) bt A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) 6-4, 3-6, 6-1; I Spirlea (Rom) bt M J Fernandez (US) 5-7, 6-2, 7-5. **Semi-finals:** M Pierce (Fr) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-2, 5-6, 6-4; Novotna bt Spirlea 7-6 (7-5), 6-2

PATTAYA, Thailand: Volvo Women's Open. Semi-finals. H Nagyova (Slovakia) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; D Van Roost (Bel) bt O Barabanschikova (Belarus) 6-3, 6-2. **Final:** Nagyova bt Van Roost 7-5, 6-7, 7-5

WREXHAM: Girobank Tour: Men: Final: N Weal (Hants) bt J Layne (Cardiff) 6-3, 6-2. **Women. Final:** J Pullin (Sussex) bt J Lutrova (Russ) 6-7, 6-4, 6-2

VOLLEYBALL

TOKYO: World Grand Champions Cup: Men: China bt Japan 3-1; Brazil bt Holland 3-2; Cuba bt Australia 3-1. **Leading final positions:** 1, Brazil; 2, Cuba; 3, Holland. **Women:** Cuba bt Japan 3-0; Russia bt South Korea 3-0. **Leading final positions.** 1, Russia; 2, Cuba; 3, Brazil

RUGBY UNION

Lloyds & TSB international match

England 8 **New Zealand** 25

England: Try: De Glanville. Pen: Catt. New Zealand: Tries: Jones, Randell, Wilson. Cons: Mehrtens 2. Pens: Mehrtens 2.

(at Old Trafford)

Other international matches

Scotland 8 **Australia** 37

Scotland: Try: Murray. Pen: Hodge. Australia: Tries: Larkham 2, Gregan, Ofahengaue, Roff. Cons: Eales 3. Pens: Eales 2.

(at Murrayfield)

France 10 **South Africa** 52

France: Try: Ibanez. Con: Lamaison. Pen: Lamaison. South Africa: Tries: Rossouw 4, Snyman, Teichmann, Honiball. Cons: Honiball 7. Pen: Honiball.

(at Parc des Princes)

Tour match

West Hartlepool 28 **Tonga XV** 14

West Hartlepool: Tries: Farmer, S John, Morgan. Cons: Vile 2. Pens: Vile 3. Tonga XV: Tries: Molitika, Tanginoa. Cons: Faka'osifolau 2

Cheltenham & Gloucester Cup

Group A

Fylde 5 **Wakefield** 17

Fylde: Try: Preston. Wakefield: Try: Scully. Pens: G Miller 4

Group B

London Irish 26 **Orrell** 19

London Irish: Tries: Bishop, Briers, Burrows, Humphreys. Cons: Humphreys 3. Orrell: Try: Verbickas. Con: Scott. Pens: Scott 4.

Rotherham 55 **Exeter** 22

Rotherham: Tries: Lax 2, Spence 2, Harper, Miller, Schmid, Wade. Cons: Binns 6. Pen: Binns. Exeter: Tries: Alvis, Woodman, penalty try. Cons: Patidar 2. Pen: Patidar.

Group C

Bristol 50 **Coventry** 14

Bristol: Tries: Rollitt 2, Corkery, Hull, R Jones, Short, Tiueti. Cons: Burke 6. Pen: Burke. Coventry: Tries: Eves, Lydster. Cons: Brown 2.

Moseley 37 **Waterloo** 20

Moseley: Tries: Hackney 2, A Binns, M Jones, R Martin. Cons: M Jones 3. Pens: M Jones 2. Waterloo: Tries: Coast, Holt, Kay. Con: L Griffiths. Pen: L Griffiths.

Group D

London Scottish 37 **Cambridge Univ** 15

London Scottish: Tries: Morley 2, Bonney, Davis, A Jackson, Thompson. Cons: Rayner 2. Pen: Rayner. Cambridge University: Tries: Lippiett, Moran. Con: Lippiett. Pen: Moran

Yesterday

Blackheath 8 **Richmond** 31

Blackheath: Try: Clarke. Pen: Braithwaite. Richmond: Tries: Chapman 3, Fallon, Whitford. Cons: Mason 3.

Jewson National League

First division

Harrogate 25 **Otley** 27

Harrogate: Tries: Hopkinson 2, Farrar. Cons: James 2. Pens: James 2. Otley: Tries: Cadman, Filipo, Smith. Cons: Rutledge 3. Pens: Rutledge 2.

Leeds 28 **Rugby** 15

Leeds: Tries: Fourie, Radacanu. Pens: *Tuipulotu 5. Dropped goal: Stephens.* Rugby: Tries: Bishop, Earl. Con: Quantrill. Pen: Quantrill.

London Welsh 17 **Newbury** 33

London Welsh: Tries: Giraud, penalty try. Cons: Dawes, Raymond. Pen: Raymond. Newbury: Tries: Davies 2, Johnson, T Osman. Cons: Grecian 2. Pens: Grecian 2. Dropped goal: Davies.

Morley 28 **Lydney** 10

Morley: Try: Bibb. Con: Withington. Pens: Withington 7. Lydney: Try: Nicholls. Con: Lewis. Pen: Lewis.

Nottingham 27 **Liverpool St H** 3

Nottingham: Tries: Pain 2, Royer. Cons: C Atkinson 3. Pens: C Atkinson 2. Liverpool St Helens: Pen: Salisbury.

Reading 15 **Worcester** 62

Reading: Tries: Eyres, penalty try. Con: Dance. Pen: Dance. Worcester: Tries: Ball 2, Holford 2, Hughes 2, Hilton-Jones, Jenner, Linnett, Lloyd. Cons: Le Bas 3, Smith 3.

Wharfedale 16 **Rosslyn Park** 13

Wharfedale: Try: penalty try. Con: Mounsey. Pens: Mounsey 3. Rosslyn Park: Try: Benson. *Con: Maddock.* Pens: Maddock 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Worcester	11	9	0	2	365	128	18
L Welsh	10	8	1	1	324	167	17
Rugby	10	8	0	2	303	186	16
Leeds	10	7	1	2	249	191	15
Otley	11	7	0	4	213	222	14
Newbury	10	6	0	4	254	189	12
Reading	11	6	0	5	288	277	12
Rosslyn Park	10	5	1	4	176	169	11
Liverpool St H	10	4	1	5	145	238	9
Wharfedale	11	4	0	7	200	294	8
Nottingham	10	3	0	7	172	238	6
Harrogate	10	2	0	8	205	239	4
Lydney	11	1	0	10	120	214	2
Morley	11	1	0	10	138	418	2

LEADING SCORERS: 135: S Tuipulotu (Leeds; 4 tries, 17 conversions, 27 penalty goals). 114: A Mounsey (Wharfedale; 4t, 22pg) 107: J Quantrill (Rugby; 5t, 20c, 14c, 22pg) 107: C Raymond (London Welsh; 3t, 25c, 14pg); C Raymond (London Welsh; 3t, 25c, 14pg). 104: P Rutledge 13pg, 1 dropped goal). 98: A Maddock (Otley; 3t, 13c, 21pg). 92: C Atkinson (Rosslyn Park; 2t, 8c, 24pg). 92: C Atkinson (Nottingham; 1t, 9c, 23pg). Tries: 8: C Davies (Newbury). 7: D Bishop (Rugby), B Johnson (Newbury). 6: A Currier (London Welsh), M Giraud *(London Welsh)*, J Reynolds (London Welsh).

Second division north

Hinckley	13	Manchester	50
Lichfield	3	Kendal	18
Nuneaton	0	Birmingham/S	6
Sandal	28	Walsall	15
Sheffield	64	Aspatria	21
Stourbridge	27	Sedgley Park	21
Winnington Park	15	Preston Grass	25

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham	10	9	0	1	335	137	18
Manchester	10	7	2	1	343	231	16
Kendal	10	6	1	3	221	134	13
Sandal	10	6	1	3	214	206	13
Nuneaton	9	6	0	3	188	167	12
Sedgley Park	10	5	1	4	253	215	11
Sheffield	10	5	0	5	279	215	10
Walsall	10	4	1	5	215	258	9
Stourbridge	9	4	0	5	202	193	8
Preston Grass	10	3	1	6	168	198	7
Aspatria	9	3	0	6	181	371	6
Lichfield	10	2	1	7	143	209	5
Winnington P	10	2	0	8	178	278	4
Hinckley	9	2	0	7	163	271	4

Second division south

Cheltenham	18	Clifton	15
Esher	32	Havant	10
Henley	26	Camberley	22
Met Police	16	Taberd	21
Plymouth	8	Barking	43
Redruth	42	North Walsham	15
Weston-s-Mare	24	Bridgwater	17

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camberley	9	8	0	1	273	144	16
Henley	9	8	0	1	232	147	16
Barking	9	6	0	3	268	172	12
Taberd	10	6	0	4	188	148	12
Esher	10	6	0	4	213	198	12
Clifton	10	6	0	4	158	184	12
North Walsham	9	5	0	4	144	157	10
Cheltenham	9	4	1	4	177	190	9
Bridgwater	10	4	0	6	215	301	8
Havant	9	3	1	5	124	167	7
Redruth	9	3	0	6	227	193	6
Weston-s-M	10	3	0	7	141	202	6
Plymouth	10	2	0	8	187	242	4
Met Police	9	1	0	8	140	241	2

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: First division: Charlton Park 10 Basingstoke 34; Ruislip 9 Staines 17.

NORTH: First division: Tynedale 8 Doncaster 14; Wigton 21 Widnes 22.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Barnstaple 22 Bracknell 25.

Welsh League

First division

Aberavon 25 **Llandovery** 14

Aberavon: Tries: Diplock, Jacobs, R Lewis, Phillips. Con: Jacobs. Pen: Stork. Llandovery: Tries: Rowlands, Simpson. Cons: Simpson 2.

Abertillery 36 **Pontypool** 13

Abertillery: Tries: Miles 2, Green, A Price, Smithey. Cons: A Price 4. Pen: A Price. Pontypool: Try: Lightfoot. Con: Thatcher. Pens: Thatcher 2.

Bonymaen 34 **SW Police** 12

Bonymaen: Tries: Beynon, Bowden, S Davies, L Jones, M Thomas. Cons: S Davies 3. Pen: S Davies. South Wales Police: Tries: N Jones, D Thomas. Con: Sparrow.

Cross Keys 22 **Caerphilly** 30

Cross Keys: Tries: Bushell, Evans, Nicholls, Walsh. Con: Vernall. Caerphilly: Tries: Stiff 3, Davey. Cons: Davey 2. Pens: Davey 2

Maesteg 22 **Dunvant** 21

Maesteg: Try: Bow. Con: A Davies. Pens: A Davies 5. Dunvant: Tries: Maddocks, Middleton, L Williams. Cons: M Thomas 3.

Merthyr 30 **Rumney** 30

Merthyr: Tries: Hancox 2, Hooper, Morris. Cons: Hancox 2. Pens: Hancox 2. Rumney: Tries: Atkins, Davies, Lee, Mason. Cons: Mason 2. Pens: Mason 2.

Treorchy 23 **Newbridge** 9

Treorchy: Tries: P Jones, Riggs. Cons: D Lloyd 2. Pens: D Lloyd 3. Newbridge: Pens: J Williams 3.

Cardiff Inst 22 **Blackwood** 23

Cardiff Institute: Tries: Carter, O'Kelly, J Williams, penalty try. Con: Roberts. Blackwood: Tries: Laycock 2, Herd. Con: Lay. Pens: Lay 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T	B	Pts
Caerphilly	13	11	0	2	462	198	59	9	42
Aberavon	14	11	2	1	381	230	55	5	40
Treorchy	14	10	0	4	385	246	55	7	37
SW Police	14	7	0	7	340	252	49	7	28
Merthyr	13	7	2	4	261	239	39	3	28
Llandovery	13	7	0	6	290	240	37	4	25
Cross Keys	13	7	1	5	260	246	27	2	24
Dunvant	13	6	0	7	270	334	30	2	20
Blackwood	14	6	0	8	253	324	34	2	20
Cardiff Inst	14	4	0	10	334	385	45	8	20
Newbridge	13	6	0	7	215	244	19	1	19
Abertillery	14	5	1	8	234	285	28	2	18
Bonymaen	13	5	0	8	202	228	25	1	16
Maesteg	13	5	0	8	236	317	22	1	16
Rumney	13	5	1	7	250	358	31	0	16
Pontypool	13	1	1	11	214	461	26	1	5

SWALEC CUP: Third round: Abercarn 34 Blaengarw 3; Abercynon 56 Cowbridge 5; Abercwmboi 17 Newtown 15; Bala 10 Morriston 34, Bedwas 20 Pill Harriers 17; Beddau wo Glais; Builth Wells 42 Abergavenny 6; Bynea 13 Penygraig 21; Carmarthen Ath 7 Llanharan 29; Cilfynydd 17 Glitach Goch 37; Dinas Powys 14 Aberavon Quins 27; Garndiffaith 14 Oakdale 6; Glamorgan Wanderers 18 Cwmllynfell 27; Glynneath 16 Llantrisant 13; Kidwelly 30 Pencoed 21; Llanishen 26 Cwmgors 44; Maesteg Celtic 10 Pontyclun 21; Mountain Ash 35 Crumlin 10; Nantymoel *15 Croesyceiliog 28; Neath Ath 23* Trebanos 8; Porthcawl 27 Birchgrove 10; Pwllheli 47 Vardre 11; Pyle 29 Rhymney 13; Rhigos 12 Kenfig Hill 25; Seven Sisters 38 Tycroes 8; Tenby 9 Whitland 29; Tondu 33 St Peter's 25; Tonyrefail 34 Penarth 12; Tredegar 38 Ystrad Rhondda 10; Treherbert 38 Aberdare 8; Trimsaran 10 Newcastle Emlyn 8; Tylorstown 25 Chepstow 21; Wrexham 27 Tonmawr 18; Ynysybwl 60 Llandudno 12.

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW: Pontypridd v Bonymaen; Narberth or Brynmawr v Wrexham; Kenfig Hill v Treorchy; Trimsaran v Builth Wells; Ebbw Vale v Kidwelly; Cross Keys v Pontyclun; Glitach Goch v Seven Sisters; Tonyrefail v Croesyceiliog; Llanelli v Dunvant; Mountain Ash v Neath Athletic; Glynneath v Merthyr; Beddau v Cardiff Institute; Cardiff v Abercarn; Carmarthen Quins or Cwmgwrach v Llanharan; Ynysybwl v Treherbert; Newbridge v Abercwmboi; Newport v Pwllheli; Tylorstown v South Wales Police; Cwmgors v Porthcawl; Abercynon v Caerphilly; Cwmllynfell v Neath; Penygraig v Old Illtydians or Blaina; Morriston v Tredegar; Maesteg Quins v Llandovery; Garndiffaith v Bridgend; Aberavon v Bedwas; Ystradgynlais v Rumney; Blackwood v Maesteg; Swansea v Whitland; Pontypool v Abertillery; Aberavon Quins v Felinfoel; Tondu v Pyle.

☐ *Ties to be played on December 20*

AIB League

First division

Ballymena	45	Dolphin	16
Clontarf	11	Old Crescent	8
Cork Const	15	Terenure	18
Shannon	20	Dungannon	13
St Mary's Coll	41	Blackrock Coll	23

Yesterday

Garryowen	3	Young Munster	3

Second division

Bective Rangers	5	Sundays Well	23
Buccaneers	42	DLSP	3
Galwegians	32	Wanderers	18
Monkstown	11	Greystones	14
Skerries	16	Malone	10
UCC	22	Derry	13

CRICKET

Second Test match

Australia v New Zealand

PERTH (fourth day of five): Australia beat New Zealand by an innings and 70 runs

NEW ZEALAND: First innings 217 (C D McMillan 54, C L Cairns 52; S K Warne 4 for 83).

Second innings

B A Pocock c Blewett b Kasprowicz	1
B A Young run out	23
†A C Parore lbw b Kasprowicz	63
D C Vettori c Taylor b Warne	1
*S P Fleming c Blewett b Warne	4
N J Astle lbw b Cook	19
C D McMillan lbw b Cook	23
C L Cairns b Cook	7
S B Doull c S R Waugh b Cook	17
S B O'Connor c Taylor b Cook	7
G I Allott not out	2
Extras (lb 2, nb 5)	7
Total	174

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-53, 3-55, 4-84, 5-102, 6-137, 7-145, 8-160, 9-165.

BOWLING: Kasprowicz 18-5-43-2; Reiffel 12-4-28-0; Warne 26-4-64-2; Cook 10.2-3-39-5

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

*M A Taylor lbw b O'Connor	2
M T G Elliott c O'Connor b Cairns	42
G S Blewett c Astle b O'Connor	14
M E Waugh c Parore b Doull	86
S R Waugh b O'Connor	96
†I A Healy c Fleming b Cairns	85
R T Ponting c Fleming b Cairns	16
P R Reiffel c Fleming b Cairns	54
S K Warne c O'Connor b Vettori	36
M S Kasprowicz run out	9
S Cook not out	3
Extras (b 6, lb 5, nb 7)	18
Total	461

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-53, 3-71, 4-224, 5-262, 6-287, 7-403, 8-449, 9-450.

BOWLING: Doull 21-3-78-1; O'Connor 31.4-7-109-3; Cairns 28-9-95-4; Vettori 29-7-84-1; Allott 22-3-84-0.

Umpires: D B Hair (Australia) and G Sharp (England).

SUPERSPORT SERIES (third day of four): Cape Town: Western Province 287-7 (P Kirsten 91 not out) v Gauteng. No play yesterday, rain. Bloemfontein: Free State 237 and 227 (H Bryan 4-49); Griqualand West 339-5 (P H Barnard 146, L Bosman 98 not out) and 10-0. *East London:* Border 341 (B M White 83, S C Pope 61, P C Strydom 51) and 53-4; Natal 350 (A C Hudson 125, D M Benkenstein 102). Port Elizabeth: Eastern Province 293 and 232-8 (K C Wessels 130 not out); Boland 274 (K C Jackson 81, C Grainger 88).

First Test match

India v Sri Lanka

MOHALI (final day of five): India drew with Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA: First innings 369 (M S Atapattu 108, S T Jayasuriya 53; J Srinath 4 for 92, A P Kuruvilla 4 for 88).

Second innings

S T Jayasuriya c Mongia b Srinath	17
M S Atapattu c Chauhan b Kuruvilla	31
R S Mahanama lbw b Srinath	11
P A de Silva not out	110
*A Ranatunga c Dravid b Kuruvilla	3
H P Tillekeratne c Tendulkar b Chauhan	9
†L de Silva not out	11
H D P K Dharmasena b J Srinath	25
Extras (b 13, lb 9, nb 12)	34
Total (6 wkts)	251

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-40, 3-67, 4-82, 5-108, 6-209.

BOWLING: Srinath 22-3-75-3; Mohanty 16-4-32-0; Kuruvilla 15.1-4-29-2; Kumble 19-5-68-0; Chauhan 18-11-23-1; Ganguly 2-2-0-0; Azharuddin 1-0-4-0.

INDIA: First Innings

†N R Mongia b Muralitharan	57
N S Sidhu run out	131
R S Dravid c Ranatunga b Jayasuriya	34
*S R Tendulkar c Dharmasena b Jayasuriya	23
M Azharuddin lbw b Vaas	53
S C Ganguly c Tillekeratne b Vaas	109
A Kumble c Dharmasena b Muralitharan	22
J Srinath c Mahanama b S C de Silva	6
R K Chauhan c Dharmasena b Muralitharan	2
A P Kuruvilla not out	35
Extras (b 19, lb 10, w 6, nb 8)	43
Total (9 wkts dec)	515

D B Mohanty did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-120, 2-214, 3-259, 4-274, 5-353, 6-400, 7-419, 8-426, 9-515.

BOWLING: Vaas 36.5-11-107-2; S C de Silva 28-6-81-1; Dharmasena 34-11-65-0; Muralitharan 75-30-174-3; Jayasuriya 30-9-59-2; Ranatunga 3-3-0-0.

Umpires: S Bucknor (West Indies) and S Venkataraghavan (India)

TOUR MATCH: Centurion (third day of four): West Indies A 293 (J C Adams 123 not out, R G Samuels 55; P S de Villiers 7-80) and 202 (Samuels 57; D Townsend 5-68); Northern Titans 175 (R D King 5-63) and 61-2.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney (final day of four): New South Wales 138 and 477-5 dec (M G Bevan 132, R J Davison 113); Western Australia 361 and 194 (R J Campbell 51; S MacGill 5-87). New South Wales win by 60 runs.

Bruno Petit and Corinne Pion trip the light fantastic during the world dance sport championship in Blackpool yesterday. Photograph: Michael Powell

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Canterbury 6 Cannock 1; East Grinstead 3 Beeston 0; Guildford 4 Doncaster 3; Hounslow 2 Barford Tigers 2; Old Loughtonians 4 Teddington 3; Reading 5 Southgate 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cannock	8	5	2	1	28	15	17
Southgate	8	5	1	2	27	18	16
Reading	8	5	1	2	26	19	16
East Grinstead	8	5	1	2	19	13	16
Canterbury	8	4	2	2	30	20	14
O Loughtonians	8	4	2	2	26	18	14
Hounslow	8	3	2	3	20	19	11
Teddington	8	3	1	4	24	28	10
Barford Tigers	8	2	3	3	15	20	9
Doncaster	8	1	2	5	17	28	5
Guildford	8	1	1	6	12	25	4
Beeston	8	0	2	6	8	29	2

FIRST DIVISION: Blueharts 4 St Albans 2; Bournville 2 Stourport 3; Bromley 0 Havant 3; Firebrands 4 Oxford Hawks 3; Gloucester City 0 Surbiton 3; Hampstead 3 Isca 0; Harleston Magpies 2 Brooklands 4; Hull 3 Lewes 2; Loughborough Students 1 Indian Gymkhana 3; Sheffield 2 Chelmsford 3; Warrington 0 Oxford Univ 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Havant	8	7	1	0	35	11	22
Surbiton	8	7	1	0	29	7	22
Brooklands	8	7	0	1	24	14	21
Indian Gym	8	5	1	2	22	13	16
Chelmsford	8	5	1	2	29	21	16
Bournville	7	4	2	1	21	10	14
Hull	8	4	2	2	17	13	14
Hampstead	8	4	1	3	16	11	13
Bromley	8	3	3	2	15	16	12
Stourport	8	3	1	4	23	22	10
Gloucester City	8	3	1	4	13	15	10
Harleston M	8	2	2	4	13	14	8
L'borough Stu	8	2	2	4	13	17	8
Firebrands	8	1	5	2	10	16	8
Blueharts	8	2	2	4	18	25	8
Isca	8	2	2	4	17	27	8
Sheffield	8	2	1	5	15	22	7
Lewes	8	1	4	3	23	31	7
Oxford Hawks	8	2	0	6	14	27	6
Oxford Univ	8	1	2	5	16	23	5
St Albans	7	1	1	5	12	22	4
Warrington	8	1	1	6	13	31	4

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester 2 Neston 4; Formby 1 Wigan 0; Harrogate 2 Ben Rhydding 4; Norton 3 Southport 0; Sheffield Bankers 6 Swalwell 2; Timperley 2 Durham Univ 2.

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloxwich 1 Khalsa 6; Coventry and North Warwick 2 North Stafford 3; Hampton-in-Arden 1 Olton and West Warwick 0; Harborne 11 Blossomfield 0; Northampton Saints 2 Edgbaston 3.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cambridge City 4 Bishops Stortford 4; Colchester 5 Sudbury 1; Ipswich 1 Crostyx 1; Luton Town 1 Clacton 5; Peterborough Tn 4 Cambridge Univ 1. **Premier division B:** Ipswich and E Suffolk 5 St Ives 0; Norwich City 0 Bury St Edmunds 1; O Southendian 1 Bedford 2; Redbridge and Ilford 1 West Herts 7; Romford 8 Dereham 5

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians 2 Gore Court 2; Chichester 3 Winchester 5; Eastcote 2 Beckenham 2; *Herne Bay* 0 Maidenhead 2; High Wycombe 5 Bournemouth 1; Old Whitgiftians 3 Richmond 4; Purley 0 Fareham 2; Ramgarhia 1 Tunbridge Wells 4; Wimbledon 3 Trojans 2; Woking 3 City Of Portsmouth 5. **Kent/Sussex:** Ashford 2 Bexley Invicta 1; B B H C 0 Brighton 2; Folkestone 0 Blackheath 4; Horsham 3 Tulse Hill 2; Marden Russets 2 Worthing 0; Middleton-Bognor 2 Burnt Ash 0; Mid Sussex 4 Newhaven 0; Old Bordenians 1 Lloyd Bank 4; Old Holcombeians 8 Eastbourne 1; Old Williamsonians 0 Sevenoaks 3. **Hampshire:** Basingstoke 2 Andover 3; Blandford 2 Haslemere 5; Cheam 1 Epsom 8; Dulwich 1 Barnes 0; Goen 0 Spencer 2; Old Walcourtians 4 Camberley 5; Old Cranleighans 6 Oxshott 1; Oxted 2 Old Georgians 8; Portsmouth 0 London Univ 1. **Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon:** Ashford 1 Bracknell 0; Farnham Common 0 Old Kingstonians 2; Hayes 2 West Hampstead 1; Lions 0 Wokingham 1; Marlow 3 Newbury 1; Milton Keynes 4 Hendon 4; P H C Chiswick 4 City Of Oxford 0; Phoenix 3 Gerrards Cross 1; Richings Park 11 Amersham 1; Sunbury 1 Staines 1

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Buccs 5 Robinsons 7; Cheltenham 4 Weston-super-Mare 0; Clevedon 1 Bristol Univ 6; Exeter Univ 2 Taunton Vale 4; Swansea 2 Whitchurch 3.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Hightown 0 Clifton Scottish Life 3; Ipswich 2 Slough 5; Trojans 2 Sutton Coldfield 1; Olton Terraquest 5 Doncaster 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slough	6	6	0	0	37	11	18
Clifton	6	4	1	1	13	11	13
Ipswich	6	4	0	2	16	10	12
Olton	6	2	2	2	12	16	8
Hightown	6	2	1	3	7	12	7
Trojans	6	1	2	3	9	15	5
Sutton	6	1	1	4	10	17	4
Doncaster	6	0	1	5	6	18	1

FIRST DIVISION: Chelmsford Highway 1 Canterbury 1; Loughborough Students 3 Wimbledon 1; Leicester 5 Bracknell 1; Bradford Swinnenbank 2 Sunderland Bedans 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	6	5	1	0	17	7	16
Canterbury	6	4	1	1	15	7	13
L'borough Stu	*6*	*4*	*0*	*2*	*14*	*14*	*12*
Chelmsford	6	3	2	1	18	4	11
Bradford S	6	3	0	3	8	9	9
Wimbledon	6	2	0	4	7	12	6
Sun Bedans	6	0	1	5	4	17	1
Bracknell	6	0	1	5	2	15	1

SECOND DIVISION: Poynton 2 Old Loughtonians 3; Woking Swifts 2 West Witney 1; Blueharts 1 Ealing 3; Sherwood 0 Aldridge 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Woking S	6	6	0	0	13	5	18
Loughtonians	6	5	0	1	17	8	15
Aldridge	6	4	0	2	13	6	12
Sherwood	6	3	0	3	11	9	9
Ealing	6	3	0	3	8	7	9
Poynton	6	1	1	4	9	11	4
W Witney	6	1	1	4	7	12	4
Blueharts	6	0	0	6	4	24	0

REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashford 0 Sevenoaks 2; Dereham 2 Cambs C 1; Harleston 1 Ipswich 4; St Albans 1 BSE 1. **Midlands:** Belper 0 Hampton 4; Kettering 6 Pickwick 0; Leicester 0 Nth Staffs 3; Luton 1 Crimson R 2. **North:** Blackburn 3 York 0; Liv Sefton 2 Chester 2; Welton 1 Leyland M 1; Winnington Pk 1 Sheffield 0. **South:** Hampstead 4 Winchmore Hill 0; Horsham 1 Soton 0; Reading 3 Hendon 2; Winchester 2 Dulwich 5. **Postponed:** Tulse Hill v Maidenhead. **West:** Bournemouth 0 St Austell 2; Cheltenham 2 Exmouth 6; Exeter 1 Redland 1; Leominster 2 T Vale 4; Yate 0 Colwall 3.

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL

Premier League Trophy

Under 19

North Yorkshire 2 Cumbria 3

Under-16

North Yorkshire 6 Cumbria 0

Bedfordshire 2, Norfolk 0

Fuji Film Trophy

Third round

Mid Wiltshire 0, Aldershot 1

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES: Under-15: Bedfordshire 6, Norfolk 0. **Under-14:** Bedfordshire 4, Norfolk 2.

MANCHESTER CUP: Salford 1 Bolton 1 Stockport 7 Manchester 1.

WEST MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Burton 2 Erdington and Saltley 1; Cannock 2 Nuneaton 6, Halesowen and Stourbridge 3 Warley 2, West Bromwich 1 Walsall 3. Wolverhampton 2 Telford 1; Stoke 1 Wyre Forest 1.

YORKSHIRE TROPHY: Bradford 5, Leeds 3

CHARLTON LEAGUE: Gosport and Fareham 2 Southampton 3

INTER-ASSOCIATION: Wigan 2 Tameside 0; Sefton 3 Oldham 2; Grimsby 1 Huddersfield 2; Rotherham 2 Derby 3, Barnsley 5 Wakefield 2, Chester 3 South Cheshire 1. South Notts 2 Kettering 1

WOODWARD TROPHY: First round. Blackburn 2, Preston 1

ALCOCK CUP: Macclesfield 0 Kirkby 3, Flint 1 Wirral 5

EAGLES TROPHY: First round: West Sussex 2, Croydon 4

MILLER CUP: First round: Luton 2, Portsmouth 6.

OTHER MATCH: Charterhouse 1 Shrewsbury 0.

RUGBY UNION

Bradford GS 12 RGS Lancaster 13
Bryanston 20 Bristol GS 5
Christ's Hospital 14 Reigate GS 26
City of London Freemens' 36 Chislehurst and Sidcup GS 0
Coopers' Coborn 63 Enfield GS 3
Cranleigh 15 RGS Guildford 5
Dean Close 32 Pates GS 15
Durham 27 RGS Newcastle 6
Edinburgh Academy 36 George Watson's 7
Eltham 48 Duke of York, Dover 8
Epsom 16 King's, Canterbury 15
Exeter 5 Wellington 6
Felsted 17 St Joseph's, Ipswich 15
Hampton 38 Wallington 7
Hurstpierpoint 17 Brighton 7
Hymers 27 Stonyhurst 13
Judd 23 Cranbrook 7
Kent 19 Sutton Valence 3
King Edward's, Bath 29 Downside 10
Kingswood 14 QEH Bristol 5
Kirkham GS 38 King's, Macclesfield 10
Latymer Upper 41 Gunnersbury 14
Loughborough GS 24 King Henry VIII 13
Merchant Taylors', Northwood 19 Mill Hill 6
Millfield 11 Colston's 21
Monmouth 17 King's, Taunton 17
QEGS Wakefield 62 Skipton GS 3
QES Barnet 3 Watford GS 58
Rugby 20 Bedford Modern 18
St Edmund's, Ware 0 St Albans 5
St George's, Weybridge 31 St Benedict's 7
St Paul's 0 Dulwich 34
Sedbergh 41 Rossall 0
Sir Roger Manwood 12 St Lawrence, Ramsgate 12
Taunton 21 Blundell's 5
Truro 32 West Buckland 10
Uppingham 10 Oakham 8
Whitgift 7 Eastbourne 26
William Hulme 16 Stockport 44
Worth 8 John Fisher 39

GOLF

KIAWAH ISLAND, South Carolina: World Cup: Third-round scores: 408: Germany (S Struver 70, 75, 67 and A Cejka 63, 68, 65) **410:** Ireland (P Harrington 71, 67, 68 and P McGinley 66, 70, 68) **412:** Scotland (R Russell 66, 72, 74 and C Montgomerie 68, 66, 66) **415:** Sweden (P-U Johansson 64, 74, 71 and J Haeggman 66, 70, 70) **416:** Spain (I Garrido 67, 67, 69 and M A Martin 68, 74, 71), United States (D Love 65, 69, 74 and J Leonard 72, 69, 67) **420:** New Zealand (M Long 69, 75, 67 and G Waite 70, 70, 69) **421:** England (P Broadhurst 68, 74, 68, and M James 68, 73, 70). South Africa (E Els 73, 68, 69 and W Westner 68, 71, 72) **424:** Wales (I Woosnam 74, 72, 69 and P Price 72, 68, 69) **425:** Malaysia (M Ramayah 71, 70, 72 and A Kadir 66, 75, 71), Mexico (R Alarcon 68, 73, 67 and O Serna 70, 79, 68), Zimbabwe (T Johnstone 73, 67, 72 and M McNulty 68, 74, 71) **426:** Australia (W Riley 67, 72, 74 and B Hughes 72, 71, 70), Canada (R Gibson 68, 73, 71 and M Weir 71, 69, 74) **427:** South Korea (Choi Kyung-Ju 69, 73, 69 and Park No-Seok 71, 72, 73), France (M Farry 72, 70, 77 and J van de Velde 68, 70, 70) **429:** Argentina (J Berendt 71, 74, 74 and J Coceres 72, 69, 69), Colombia (G Mendoza 70, 69, 68 and J Amaya 73, 70, 79) **430:** Switzerland (P Quirici 74, 72, 69 and J Ciola 74, 73, 68). **431:** Denmark (K Storgaard 71, 80, 72 and T Bjorn 69, 72, 67) **433:** Japan (H Fujita 68, 74, 71 and T Teshima 74, 74, 72); Puerto Rico (M Suarez 72, 72, 72 and M Ambriz 74, 72, 71) **439:** Philippines (D Cabajar 73, 72, 74 and F Cases 73, 76, 71) **442:** Italy (M Florioli 77, 74, 70 and S Grappasonni 78, 75, 68). **443:** Namibia (S van der Merwe 73, 76, 80 and T Dodds 68, 73, 73), *India (A Singh 72, 74, 77 and G Ghai 74, 76, 70)* **447:** Paraguay (R Freiles 70, 73, 71 and F Franco 74, 82, 77). **450:** Taiwan (Hsu Huang-Lung 77, 77, 76 and Chou Hung-Nan 75, 74, 71). **451:** Austria (G Manson 73, 74, 74 and C Grenier 74, 81, 75) **453:** Norway (M Orveland 70, 78, 73 and M Hagen 81, 79, 72) **463:** Finland (A Kankkonen 71, 76, 76 and M Lehtinen 76, 79, 85)

COSTA DEL SOL, San Roque and Guadalmina: PGA European Tour qualifying school (GB and Ire unless stated): **Leading third-round scores: 208:** M Campbell (NZ) 69, 72, 67 **209:** F Henge (Swe) 68, 75, 66, R-J Derksen (Holl) 76, 66, 67; A Stolz (Aus) 72, 67, 70; P Golding 71, 68, 70 **210:** P Nyman (Swe) 68, 72, 70; A Beal 69, 71, 70 **211:** A Sandywell 70, 70, 71; C Van der Velde (Holl) 72, 68, 71; P Linhart (Sp) 73, 67, 71; J Rask (Swe) 72, 68, 71 **212:** H Nystrom (Swe) 71, 75, 66, J Remesy (Fr) 72, 72, 68; M Olander (Swe) 71, 71, 70; N Henning (SA) 72, 69, 71; J Singh (Ind) 67, 74, 71, G Furey 72, 68, 72; D Cole (Aus) 67, 72, 73; A Tillman 70, 68, 74 **213:** G Owen 70, 76, 67, R Lee 74, 71, 68; M Anglert (Swe) 72, 72, 69; J Robinson 73, 70, 70; D Higgins 71, 72, 70; S Bennett 75, 68, 70; J Taylor (Aus) 70, 72, 71 **214:** G Sherry 74, 71, 69; M Pendaries (Fr) 71, 73, 70, J Bickerton 75, 68, 74; F Howley 71, 72, 71, A Crerar 70, 73, 71, M Plummer 74, 69, 71, M Goggin (Aus) 70, 72, 72, O Eliasson (Swe) 73, 68, 73, M Davis 69, 75, 75.

MIYAZAKI, Japan: Dunlop Phoenix tournament: Leading final scores (Japan unless stated) **275:** T Watson (US) 70, 65, 70, 70 **277:** N Ozaki 71, 70, 71, 65. **278:** C Parry (Aus) 68, 68, 69, 73 **279:** M Ozaki 68, 71, 69, 71, J M Olazabal (Sp) 73, 69, 67, 70 **280:** S Maruyama 72, 68, 71, 69, C Rocca (It) 71, 72, 68, 69; C Franco (Par) 68, 71, 71, 70; R Goosen (SA) 66, 72, 72, 70. **281:** F Minoza (Phil) 68, 70, 71, 72; D Ishii (US) 74, 68, 71, 68; D Clarke (GB) 72, 70, 70, 69. **Other scores: 282:** M A Jimenez (Sp) 72, 71, 73, 66, Chen Tze-Chung (Taiwan) 72, 73, 70, 67, J Sluman (US) 74, 71, 68, 69; B Jobe (US) 73, 72, 67, 70 **284:** B Watts (US) 72, 73, 69, 70. **285:** L Westwood (GB) 73, 72, 70, 70, P Senior (Aus) 72, 71, 71, 71. **287:** M Brooks (US) 75, 69, 74, 69; G Marsh (Aus) 70, 74, 71, 72; T Hamilton (US) 69, 74, 69, 75 **288:** F Funk (US) 68, 77, 70, 72 **290:** P McWhinney (Aus) 70, 71, 72, 77 **291:** E Herrera (Col) 68, 78, 73, 72 **292:** R Mackay (Aus) 71, 74, 75, 72

LAS VEGAS: LPGA Tour championship: Leading third-round scores (US unless stated) **207:** A Sorenstam (Swe) 72, 68, 67 **208:** K Robbins 73, 66, 69; N Lopez 69, 68, 71 **209:** D Andrews 69, 73, 67; C Walker 72, 69, 68; J Inkster 69, 70, 70; P Hurst 72, 64, 73 *210: L Kane 71, 68, 71; K Webb (Aus)* 72, 66, 72 **211:** C Johnson 72, 71, 68. **212:** D Richard 71, 69, 72 **213:** T Green 72, 72, 69; L Neumann (Swe) 72, 69, 72 **214:** L Davies (GB) 71, 71, 72, B Burton 71, 71, 72, R Jones 71, 68, 75 **215:** S Steinhauer 71, 73, 71. **216:** C Figg-Currier 74, 75, 67, H Kobayashi (Japan) 70, 76, 70; M McGann 71, 74, 71. **218:** M Redman 75, 72, 71, D Pepper 70, 75, 73. **219:** B Muche 75, 71, 73 **220:** A Nicholas (GB) 71, 74, 75; B King 72, 69, 79; J Geddes 69, 72, 79

MELBOURNE: Australian PGA championship: Leading final scores (Aus unless stated). **285:** A Coltart (GB) 72, 71, 66, 76 **289:** S Appleby 69, 73, 74, 73; S Allan 69, 71, 74, 75. **290:** P Devenport (NZ) 72, 71, 72, 75; R Davis 70, 73, 74, 73. **291:** R Allenby 73, 70, 72, 76. **292:** J-L Guepy (Fr) 72, 71, 77, 72; M Peterson 76, 71, 73, 72 **293:** D Diaz 74, 69, 76, 74, P O'Malley 76, 72, 72, 73, S Conran 73, 67, 78, 75; C Spence 73, 73, 72, 75, D Smail (NZ) 74, 73, 71, 75, N Kerry 73, 75, 70, 75, D Anderson 75, 69, 81, 68 S Robinson 73, 73, 71, 76; D Howell (GB) 75, 69, 72, 77.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Crystal Palace 80 Newcastle 97; Worthing 80 Manchester 98.

	P	W	L	Pts
London Towers	11	10	1	20
Thames Valley	11	9	2	18
Birmingham	8	8	0	16
Leopards	12	8	4	16
Manchester	11	7	4	14
Newcastle	12	7	5	14
Chester	9	5	4	10
Sheffield	9	5	4	10
Worthing	15	5	10	10
Leicester	12	4	8	8
Derby	11	3	8	6
Crystal Palace	13	3	10	6
Watford	14	0	14	0

Not including last night's match

UNI-BALL TROPHY: Newcastle 63 Chester 65, Birmingham 95 Thames Valley 102. Watford 56 Birmingham 111, Thames Valley 94 Leopards 101, Chester 73 Derby 71

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Guildford 72 Richmond 79; Oxford 69 Plymouth 83, Solihull 90 Westminster 76; Stevenage 73 Coventry 75. **Second division:** Flintshire 51 Bournemouth 77, Slough 55 Solent 82; Thames Valley 70 Chessington 82. **Women: First division:** NW London 57 Rhondda 67, Northampton 69 Leicester 61. **Second division:** Doncaster 73 Richmond 63; Plymouth 48 Chelmsford 37; Sheffield 60 Solent 56. Spelthorne 56 Manchester 50

EUROPEAN CUP: Group C: Hapoel Jerusalem 88 Partizan Belgrade 84 (OT); Kinder Bologna 83 Barcelona 70, Pau-Orthez (Fr) 77 Ulkerspor (Tur) 76. **Group D:** Cibona Zagreb 98 Alba Berlin 84; Union Olimpija (Slovenia) 60 Paris Saint-Germain 49

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Friday: New York 104 Washington 82; Charlotte 119 Miami 102; Boston 101 New Jersey 93; Cleveland 103 Minnesota 80; Seattle 94 San Antonio 74; Vancouver 99 Denver 96; Chicago 111 Los Angeles Clippers 102 (2nd OT). **Saturday:** Orlando 108 Philadelphia 94; Charlotte 95 Indiana 94. Miami 108 Toronto 104. Detroit 87 Atlanta 85; Cleveland 110 Washington 101, New Jersey 93 Portland 87, Milwaukee 83 Dallas 62; Houston 90 Golden State 84; Seattle 84 Denver 80; Utah 103 San Antonio 74.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	8	4	.667	—
New York	8	4	.667	—
Orlando	8	4	.667	—
New Jersey	7	4	.636	½
Boston	6	6	.500	2
Washington	4	9	.308	4½
Philadelphia	3	7	.300	4

Central division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	11	2	.846	—
Charlotte	8	3	.727	2
Chicago	7	5	.583	3½
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	3½
Cleveland	6	6	.500	4½
Indiana	5	6	.455	5
Detroit	5	8	.385	6
Toronto	1	11	.083	9½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	7	5	.583	—
Minnesota	6	5	.545	½
Houston	6	5	.545	½
Utah	6	6	.500	1
Vancouver	6	7	.462	1½
Dallas	3	9	.250	4
Denver	0	11	.000	6½

Pacific division

	W	L	Pct	GB
LA Lakers	10	0	1.000	—
Phoenix	7	2	.778	2½
Seattle	10	3	.769	1½
Portland	8	4	.667	3
Sacramento	4	7	.364	6½
Golden State	1	10	.091	9½
LA Clippers	1	11	.083	10

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Ayr 4 Cardiff 7; Nottingham 8 Newcastle 3. Basingstoke 10 Sheffield 7

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Friday: New York Rangers 4 Carolina 3. Detroit 4 Dallas 2, Colorado 3 Toronto 1. **Saturday:** Florida 2 New Jersey 1 (OT). Buffalo 6 New York Islanders 1; Dallas 2 Boston 0; Pittsburgh 4 New York Rangers 3 (OT). San Jose 6 Washington 2; Tampa Bay 4 Calgary 3, Edmonton 1 Ottawa 0. Detroit 5 Montreal 2 Anaheim 2 St Louis 0; Chicago 5 Vancouver 4 (OT); Phoenix 2 Toronto 0.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
New Jersey	16	6	0	32	68	38
Philadelphia	13	8	3	29	69	57
Washington	12	8	3	27	68	61
NY Rangers	8	9	7	23	64	64
NY Islanders	9	10	4	22	61	63
Florida	7	11	4	18	46	63
Tampa Bay	4	16	2	10	44	78

Northeast division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pts
Montreal	14	7	2	30	74	52
Pittsburgh	11	9	5	27	68	65
Boston	11	9	4	26	58	59
Ottawa	9	11	4	22	62	60
Carolina	9	11	3	21	63	67
Buffalo	7	10	4	18	58	62

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Detroit	15	6	4	34	84	59
St Louis	15	7	2	32	72	52
Dallas	14	7	4	32	77	61
Phoenix	11	9	2	24	67	60
Chicago	9	13	2	20	52	63
Toronto	7	12	3	17	42	62

Pacific division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Colorado	11	5	7	29	70	59
Los Angeles	10	8	4	24	76	63
Anaheim	9	10	5	23	58	67
San Jose	9	14	1	19	65	73
Edmonton	7	12	5	19	55	76
Vancouver	6	14	3	15	61	81
Calgary	4	15	5	13	59	78

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هكذا من الاصل

Court of Appeal

Presumption irrelevant in map conveyance

***Alan Wibberley Building Ltd* v Insley**

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Judge

[Judgment November 12]

The "hedge and ditch presumption" did not come into play at all where land was conveyed by reference to Ordnance Survey maps which showed boundaries in the middle of hedges.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment by majority (Lord Justice Judge dissenting) in dismissing an appeal brought by the defendant, John Graham Insley, against the decision of Mr Recorder Pardoe, QC, at Stoke on Trent County Court on November 30, 1995 when he declared the boundary between the defendant's field and that of the plaintiff, Alan Wibberley Building Ltd, as being along the centre line of a hedge dividing the two fields.

Mr Ian Foster for the defendant; Mr Charles Machin for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE WARD said that the case concerned a boundary dispute which raised a point of law of some importance which could be broadly stated as: where adjoining fields were separated by a hedge and a ditch, who owned the ditch?

The defendant owned part of Home Farm in Staffordshire and the plaintiff part of Saverley Green Farm. It was not in dispute that until removal of part of it by the defendant some time in or after 1987 there had been a hedge between the two farms.

The judge found on the balance of probabilities that a ditch, as originally dug, ran the full length of that hedge and continued to exist until recently. The ditch was on the plaintiff's side.

By a deed made in 1920, Home Farm was conveyed to a Mr Beard. In 1975 Mr Beard sold to Mrs Burton. That conveyance was drafted differently from the one in 1920 and made reference to the boundary being delineated by reference to Ordnance Survey maps.

As for Saverley Green Farm, the plaintiff's predecessor in title took a conveyance in 1921. By a conveyance made in 1984 the defendant acquired the land delineated on a plan which corresponded to, but which was not an exact copy of the Ordnance Survey map which showed the field forming the eastern boundary with Home Farm.

The dispute arose because some time in about 1987 the defendant scrubbed out the hedge dividing the two fields and erected a wood post and wire fence along the old line of the far lip of the ditch. The plaintiff alleged trespass and sought relief. The judge found for the plaintiff and the defendant now appealed.

The issue was whether or not, as the defendant contended, the boundary was fixed by the application of the presumption that the person who dug the ditch dug it at the extremity of his land and threw the soil on to his own land to make the bank on which the hedge was planted, or whether, as the plaintiff contended, that presumption did not arise where the land had been conveyed by reference to the Ordnance Survey map which delineated the boundary. The judge applied *Fisher v Winch* ([1939] 1 KB 666) and *Davey v Harrow Corporation* ([1958] 1 QB 60) and found for the plaintiff.

The case was presented in the Court of Appeal on the basis that the ditch remained vested in Mr Beard and by deed dated August 9, 1996 between the executors of Mr Beard, Mrs Beard and the defendant, title to the ditch now passed to the defendant. The principal submission was that the plaintiff never owned the ditch and so could not complain of trespass upon it.

Central to the defendant's submission was the proposition that prior to the 1975 conveyance the boundary between the two farms had been fixed by operation of the *hedge and ditch presumption* and that, having once been fixed, it could not and did not change.

In his Lordship's judgment, the approach to the case should be as follows:

The initial question was: "What, on the true construction of the two conveyances to the parties was the *boundary of their respective land?*"

The plaintiff's 1984 conveyance was insufficient to identify the parcels precisely but it could not be doubted that the land being conveyed extended up to its boundary with Home Farm, wherever that boundary was.

Since the presumption only came into operation in cases where the boundary was not delimited in the parcels to that conveyance then, in the absence of other evidence, it could be presumed that the boundary was the Saverley Green edge of the ditch and accordingly that the Saverley Green Farm did not include the ditch itself. The presumption was, however, rebuttable.

Turning to the defendant's conveyance which, it was agreed for all practical purposes meant the 1975 conveyance, defined the parcels by reference to the Ordnance Survey map and so it was established beyond possibility of question what the boundary was. There was therefore no room at all for the operation of the presumption. Consequently, as the defendant now accepted, the ditch was not conveyed to him.

If the two parcels were in common ownership then once the question was decided as to what the first purchaser got under his conveyance, no difficulty arose as to what the purchaser of what could only be sensibly understood to be the remainder of the estate.

The fact that the parcels were not conveyed from a common owner did not render inoperable the rules either that the first task was to construe the respective conveyances or that the presumption had its proper place when there was no other boundary otherwise ascertainable.

His Lordship was satisfied that the judge correctly applied the law and reached the right conclusion.

The result did not diminish the usefulness of the presumption and what might be a widely held common perception of its operation in rural communities.

His Lordship was relieved that the conclusion would have the beneficial result that maps of rural England and Wales would not have to be redrawn to show mile upon mile of ditches owned by some long forgotten vendor whose solicitors chose to convey the land by reference to the Ordnance Survey map.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE, dissenting, said that the approach to the problem adopted in *Fisher v Winch* was not justified when the dispute did not arise out of the creation of two parcels of land out of one.

In the present case there had in law been no link between the two titles to the separate parcels of land owed by the plaintiff and the defendant. The conveyance on which the plaintiff's title depended expressly referred to the 1921 conveyance.

Despite the reference to the Ordnance Survey map for identification purposes that reference emerged from nowhere without any evidence to suggest that the vendor was entitled to sell the disputed land.

Indeed the vendor only purported to sell the land which had been acquired under the 1921 conveyance. Therefore the plaintiff's conveyance did not vest ownership in him. Equally the defendant's claim to the disputed land depended on the hedge and ditch presumption of law but was contradicted by the conveyance to him.

Whatever the position might have been in February 1975, the conveyance to the defendant did not grant him title to the disputed land. However, the deficiencies in his title did not result in the acquisition of the land by the plaintiff. His Lordship would allow the appeal.

Lord Justice Simon Brown delivered a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Ward in dismissing the appeal.

Solicitors: Grindeys, Stoke on Trent; Challinors & Dickson, Stoke on Trent.

Chancery Division

Court has no power to enforce promise

Taylor v Dickens and Another

Before Judge Weeks, QC

[Judgment November 12]

Where a party made a promise which he subsequently broke in circumstances which could be regarded as unconscionable, unfair or morally objectionable, the court had no general equitable jurisdiction to interfere to enforce the promise.

If a plaintiff believed that he *would be granted a right* over another's property in the future, for instance a promised legacy under a will, in a situation where the promiser still had a right to change his mind, in order to establish the requisite unconscionability for proprietary estoppel, the plaintiff had to prove that the promiser had created or encouraged a belief that he would not exercise that right and that the plaintiff had relied on that belief.

Judge Weeks, QC, sitting as a High Court judge, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division dismissing an action brought by Robert Taylor against Kenneth Clive Dickens and Marian Telford Dickens, executors of the will of Gertrude Emma May Parker, for a declaration that he was entitled to the net residuary estate of Mrs Parker.

Mr Roger Evans for Mr Taylor; Mr John Ross Martyn for the executors.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in 1988 Mrs Parker told Mr Taylor, who was her part-time gardener, that she intended to leave him her house in her will whereupon he declared that he would not receive *any payment* for his gardening or the other help he provided thereafter.

Mrs Parker subsequently executed at least three wills in 1991, 1993 and 1994, in which she left her residuary estate to Mr Taylor. In 1995, however, she made a will leaving her residuary estate to someone else. She did not tell Mr Taylor of her change of mind, preferring, as she put it to third parties, to "take the coward's way out".

Mrs Parker died on November 18, 1995. Between 1988 and November 1995 Mr Taylor, who had a full-time job as a lorry driver, provided care for Mrs Parker in many ways and received no remuneration for his services in the expectation that he would receive the house on Mrs Parker's death. He now claimed to be entitled to the residuary estate.

Mr Evans put his case first in contract. His Lordship, however, found that the claim in contract failed for four reasons:

First, there was no agreement. In 1988 Mrs Parker stated what she intended to do and then Mr Taylor stated what he intended to do in that event. The same thing happened in 1991. There was no offer, no acceptance, no exchange of promises, no mutually binding obligations.

Second, *if there was an agreement* on Mrs Parker's part, it was an agreement to make a will, not an agreement not to revoke it. Mr Taylor admitted in evidence that Mrs Parker never told him she would never change her will.

The distinction was not mere logic chopping and its importance was shown by a recent case on mutual wills: *In re Goodchild* ([1997] 1 WLR 1216) where Lord Justice Leggat had said (at p1225): "A key feature of the concept of mutual wills is the irrevocability of the mutual intentions. Not only must they be binding when made, but the testators must have undertaken, and so must be bound, not to change their intention after the death of the first testator."

If there was a contract Mrs Parker performed her part by making the wills in 1988 and 1991.

Third, there was, in his Lordship's judgment, no intention to create legal relations.

Fourth, section 2 of the Law of Property (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1989 on the necessity for writing in a contract for the disposition of an interest in land, had not been complied with.

For all those reasons the claim in contract failed.

Mr Evans's second submission was based on proprietary estoppel. He put the case in two ways:

First, he submitted that there was a wide equitable jurisdiction to interfere in cases where to enforce strict legal rights was found by the court to be unconscionable. In his Lordship's judgment there was no such general jurisdiction at least in the field of promises as to future conduct.

There were dicta from distinguished judges which might tend to a different conclusion but they had been taken out of context. His Lordship referred to *Amalgamated Investment and Property Co Ltd v Texas Commerce International Bank Ltd* ([1982] QB 84, 104); *Taylors Fashions Ltd v Liverpool Trustees Co* ([1982] QB 133, 151H); and *Crabb v Arun District Council* ([1976] Ch 179, 193, 195).

In *Crabb v Arun District Council* Lord Justice Scarman (at p195) was relying on the five traditional elements of proprietary estoppel laid out in *Willmott v Barber* ((1880) 15 Ch D 96) and was not creating a general jurisdiction to interfere in all cases of unconscionable conduct.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was no equitable jurisdiction to hold a person to a promise simply because the court thought it unfair, unconscionable or morally objectionable for him to go back on it.

If there were such jurisdiction one might as well forget the law of contract and judge every civil dispute with a portable palm tree. The days of justice varying with the length of the Lord Chancellor's foot would have returned.

As an alternative, Mr Evans relied on the formulation of proprietary estoppel in *In re Basham* ([1986] 1 WLR 1498, 1503). That case had been subject to some academic criticism but it was authority for the propositions that proprietary estoppel could extend to cases where there was a belief that future rights would be granted and that a proprietary estoppel *could* be raised in relation to a promised legacy of residue.

In his Lordship's judgment, in *two distinct* respects, the principle was stated too widely in *In re Basham*: first, it omitted the requirement of unconscionability which nearly all the judgments in this field insisted on; second, it was not sufficient for A to believe that he was going to be given a right over B's property if he knew that B had the right to change his mind.

In that case A also had to show that B created or encouraged a belief on A's part that B would not exercise that right. That requirement was shown by *Attorney-General of Hong Kong v Humphreys Estate* ([1987] AC 114, 124C-D).

In the present case, Mr Taylor knew that wills were revocable and that Mrs Parker could change her mind. His wife gave evidence that on at least three occasions she told him not to count his chickens before they were hatched. He was confident that Mrs Parker would not revoke her will but he agreed that she never said she would not do so.

What Mr Taylor relied on were her statements in 1988 and 1991 that she was going to make a will in his favour and her subsequent three statements that she had done so. As appeared from *In re Goodchild* there was a difference between saying you would make a will and saying you would not revoke a will.

Mr Taylor's claim failed because he could not show that Mrs Parker created or encouraged a belief or expectation that she would not revoke her will and that he relied on that belief.

In case he should be wrong, his Lordship went on to consider whether it would be unconscionable for Mrs Parker through her executors to insist on absolute ownership of the estate. In his view there was nothing unfair, unjust or morally objectionable in Mrs Parker's change of will in 1995.

What could be criticised was her not telling Mr Taylor at the time; but her failure to inform him did not raise an equity in Mr Taylor's favour, certainly not an equity which would entitle him to the residuary estate.

Solicitors: Rowberry Morris & Co, Crowthorne; Dickens & Co, Crowthorne.

Foreign telephone intercept is admissible

Regina v Aujla

The terms of telephone conversations between a person in the United Kingdom and another in The Netherlands, which was intercepted there under judicial authority, *was admissible in evidence* here at the trial of the former for an offence of conspiracy with the latter.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Roch, Mr Justice Buckley and Mrs Justice Hale) so held on November 7 when granting an application under section 35 of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 for leave to appeal against a preliminary ruling of the trial judge but dismissing that appeal by three defendants charged with conspiracy to bring illegal immigrants into the United Kingdom.

LORD JUSTICE ROCH said that the court rejected the appellants' submissions that admission of such evidence was contrary to the spirit of the Interception of Communications Act 1985, contrary to article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and should have been excluded under *section 78 of the Police and* Criminal Evidence Act 1984 or the proceedings should have been stayed as an abuse of process.

The 1985 Act did not bar the use of material obtained by foreign telephone tapping as evidence in proceedings in this country.

In the circumstances there had *been no impermissible infringements* of the appellants' rights under article 8 of the Convention, nor could the judge's exercise of his discretion under section 78 of the 1984 *Act to admit the evidence be* criticised.

There was no abuse of process and in any event there was no authority for the proposition that the principles of abuse of process could be used to exclude evidence.

Head teacher has no duty to investigate

***Director of Public Prosecutions* v G (Duty to investigate)**

Before Lord Justice Brooke and Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment October 13]

A head teacher was not a person "charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders" under section 67(9) of the *Police and Criminal Evidence* Act 1984.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in the course of dismissing an appeal by the prosecution by way of case stated against the acquittal by Aldershot Justices of G, a teacher, of common assault. The justices had found that a head teacher of a junior school was within the ambit of section 67(9) of the 1984 Act and should therefore have cautioned G prior to questioning him about a classroom incident.

Mr Michael Forster for the prosecution; Mr Justin Shale for G.

MR JUSTICE GAGE said that on March 8, 1996 G was doing supply work at a junior school. He was teaching a class of 10 and 11 year olds. A male pupil rocked his chair backwards and forwards and was told by G on a number of occasions to stop that activity. *Fearing the chair would overbalance* G put his hand on the boy's neck and pulled him off his chair and on to the floor.

That incident was partially witnessed by a parent waiting outside the classroom who contacted the head teacher immediately. The head teacher went straight to the classroom where she found the pupil on the floor weeping.

The head teacher interviewed G and asked him to give an account of what had happened. The head teacher made jottings of what G had said and wrote those jottings up into a statement five hours later. Subsequently on April 16, 1996 an information was laid *against G for assault.*

The question before the court was whether a head teacher was a person "charged with the duty of investigating offences or charging offenders" under section 67(9) and therefore bound to apply the provisions of *Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (s.66) Codes of Practice.*

Mr Forster submitted that a head teacher had a duty to investigate incidents which occurred at a school but there was no evidence of any contractual or legal duty to investigate offences. He cited *R v Smith (W. D.)* ([1996] 2 Cr App R 1); *Joy v Federation against Copywrite Theft Ltd* ([1993] Crim LR 588) and *R v Twaites* ((1990) 92 Cr App R 106).

Mr Shale submitted that sections 22 and 41 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986 imposed statutory duties upon head teachers to investigate incidents and offences happening at a school.

His Lordship held that the statutory provisions of the 1986 Act did not persuade him that a head teacher had any duty imposed *upon him sufficient to make section 67(9)* of the 1984 Act apply.

The answer in reality to any question of unfairness in any interview could be dealt with by section 78 of the 1984 Act. A head teacher was not a person charged with investigating offences or incidents which might arise in a school. The magistrates proceeded on the wrong basis.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE agreed that on the particular facts the head teacher was not "charged *with investigating offences*" under section 67(9) of the 1984 Act but that each case would depend on its particular facts.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Basingstoke; Parkinson & Co, Bracknell.

No duty to incur costs

Shearing v Cinven Ltd (formerly CIN Venture Management Ltd)

There was no duty on defendants to incur costs at an early stage of an action to take elaborate proofs from potential witnesses.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Harman) so held on November 14 in dismissing an appeal brought by the plaintiff, Michael Shearing, against the decision of Judge Havery, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division on November 21, 1996, when he upheld the decision of Deputy Master Cooper to strike out the action against the defendants, Cinven Ltd, for want of prosecution.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that the fact that the defendants had not taken elaborate proofs from their potential witnesses two to three years ago did not cause or contribute to delay.

The prejudice of delay caused by the dimming of memories was not caused by the act of the defendants in not proofing their witnesses. There was no duty on defendants to incur large costs at an early stage of threatened action to take elaborate proofs from potential witnesses.

▸ REWARDING TIMES ◂

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THE TIMES

European Law Report — Luxembourg

Applying equal treatment directive

Gerster v Freistaat Bayern

Case C-1/95

Before J. L. Murray, President of Sixth Chamber and Judges P. J. G. Kapteyn and G. Hirsch

Advocate General A. La Pergola

(Opinion October 22, 1996)

[Judgment October 2]

Article 119 of the EC Treaty, laying down the principle of equal pay for equal work for men and women, applied to employment relationships in the public service.

A national rule requiring that for the purposes of calculating the length of service of public servants, periods of part-time employment were to count as part only of normal working hours, did not fall within the scope of article 119 or of the Community equal pay directive, but was contrary to the equal treatment directive unless the rule was justified by objective criteria unrelated to any sex discrimination.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when answering three questions referred by the Bayerisches Verwaltungsgericht (Bavarian Administrative Court), Ansbach, Germany, for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the Treaty.

The rules of the Bavarian state civil *service provided that promotion* to a higher grade was to be based on, inter alia, length of service and that for that purpose periods of employment during which the hours worked were between one-half and two-thirds of normal working hours were to be treated as equivalent to two-thirds.

Mrs Gerster, an employee of the Bavarian finance administration, worked one-half of normal working hours after September 1987.

In a letter in which she applied for promotion, she asked that the period since September 1987 be treated as full-time employment for the purpose of calculating her length of service, but the application was rejected.

In proceedings brought by her, Mrs Gerster argued that the decision rejecting her candidature was contrary to article 119 of the Treaty, to Council Directive 75/117/EEC of February 10, 1975 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women (OJ 1975 L45 p19), and to Council Directive 76/207/EEC of February 9, 1976 on the implementation of *the principle of equal treatment* for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions (OJ 1976 L39 p40).

Article 119 provides: "Each member state shall ... maintain the application of the principle that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.

"For the purpose of this article, 'pay' means the ordinary basic or minimum wage or salary and any other consideration ... which the worker receives, directly or indirectly, in respect of his employment from his employer..."

In its judgment the Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice held:

The *principle laid down in* article 119 formed part of the foundations of the Community, and to exclude the public service from the scope of the article would run counter to its objective.

Moreover, the court had stated in Case 248/83 *Commission v Germany* ([1985] ECR 1459) that Directives 76/207 and 75/117 applied to employment *in the public* service, and that those directives, like article 119, were of general application; a factor inherent in the very nature of the principle which they laid down.

However, as the court had emphasised in Case 149/77 *Defrenne v Sabena* ([1978] ECR 1365, paragraph 20), the scope of article 119 could not be extended to aspects of the employment relationship other than those expressly referred to.

Mrs Gerster argued that since the case concerned a system for the classification of salaries which was practically automatic, it fell within the scope of the term "pay" as used in article 119, and infringed Directive 75/117.

Where a civil sevant was placed on the list of candidates eligible for *promotion, his progression to a* higher grade, and accordingly to a higher level of remuneration, was not a right but a mere possibility, actual promotion depending on a number of factors.

A rule such as that in issue, albeit indirectly linked to the pay to which the candidate would be entitled on completion of the promotions procedure, primarily concerned access to career advancement.

Inequality in that context there*fore did not fall within the scope of* article 119 or of Directive 75/117.

Article 3 of Directive 76/207 prohibited discrimination on the ground of sex in the conditions, including selection criteria, for access to all jobs or posts.

Although the provision in question did not discriminate directly, it was necessary to consider whether it constituted indirect discrimination, which arose where a national measure, although formulated in neutral terms, worked to the disadvantage of far more women than men.

It was common ground that the provision treated part-time employees less favourably than full-time ones, as the former accrued length of service more slowly and perforce gained promotion later.

Since Mrs Gerster maintained that in the department where she worked 87 per cent of part-time employees were women, and on the national court's findings that percentage reflected the situation across the board in the Bavarian civil service, it must be concluded that in practice a provision such as that in issue resulted in discrimination against women employees as compared with men, and must in principle be regarded as contrary to Directive 76/207.

The position would be different only if the distinction between *those two categories of employee* were justified by factors unrelated to any discrimination on the ground of sex.

That was a matter for the national court to determine in the light of all the circumstances.

According to the Bavarian State, the discrimination was objectively justified as the system was based on the administration's need to establish a general yardstick in terms of length of service against which the professional experience *of employees could be assessed* before they could be regarded as eligible for promotion to a higher grade, and civil servants who worked part-time needed to complete longer periods of service than those who worked full-time if they were to acquire the skills and abilities necessary for duties at a higher level.

However, it was impossible to identify objective criteria unrelated to any discrimination, on the basis of an alleged special link between *length of service and acquisition of* a certain level of knowledge or experience, since such a claim amounted to no more than a generalisation concerning certain categories of worker.

Although experience went hand in hand with length of service and experience enabled the worker in principle to improve performance of the tasks allotted to him, the objectivity of such a criterion depended on all the circumstances in each individual case.

If the national court found that part-time employees were generally slower than full-time ones in acquiring job-related abilities and skills, and that the competent authorities were in a position to establish that the measures chosen reflected a legitimate social policy aim, were an appropriate means of achieving that aim, and were necessary in order to do so, the mere fact that the provision affected far more women than men could not be regarded as an infringement of Directive 76/207.

If it concluded that there was no special link between length of service and acquisition of a certain level of knowledge or experience, the requirement in the provision, to the effect that part-time employees had to complete a period of service more than one-third longer than that completed by a full-time official in order to have approximately the *same chance* of promotion, must be regarded as contrary to the directive.

On those grounds, the Court ruled:

1 Article 119 of the EC Treaty was to be interpreted as applying to employment relationships arising in the public service.

2 A provision of national law which required that, for the purposes of calculating the length of service of public servants, periods of employment during which the hours worked were between one-half and two-thirds of normal working hours were counted only as two-thirds of normal working hours, did not fall within the scope of article 119 or of Directive 75/117.

3 Directive 76/207 precluded such national legislation save where it was justified by objective criteria unrelated to any discrimination on the ground of sex.

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THE TIMES

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Making a splash for glory and charity

Four days of demanding physical and mental exercise aim to promote loyalty and team spirit among employees, writes **John Young**

Take half a dozen wannabee managers away from their desks and their computers. Dress them in T-shirts, shorts and trainers and have them spend four days and nights scrambling up rock faces, wading rivers, canoeing down rapids, cycling over rocky screes and struggling across open moorland in darkness, trying to locate map references by torchlight in wind and rain.

And what do you get? Tomorrow's leaders of business and industry.

To many the idea may seem preposterous, reeking of Kiplingesque notions of stiff upper lips and achievement through adversity. But the success of the UK Challengers Trophy over the past decade is convincing evidence that the old ways of assessing "officer potential" still serve a purpose.

Bishop: achievement

The Challengers Trophy was the idea of a Belgian businessman, Michael Malschaert, who was convinced by his experiences during the 1985 Paris-Dakar motor rally of the benefits of ordeal by endurance. The first competition was held in Spa, Belgium, and was followed by similar events in France in 1987 and The Netherlands in 1989.

But these early contests were essentially elitist, demanding virtually professional levels of fitness and commitment. In 1995 the event was held in the French Alps and required skilled mountaineers to help disabled children to climb Mont Blanc. In fundraising terms it was an imaginative project, but its relevance to management training was questionable.

In stepped Peter Bishop, a former colonel in The Queen's Regiment who, after leaving the Army, established Europac, a marketing, public relations and training company. In 1994 he was invited to become managing director of Challenger UK, with a brief to put the emphasis on teamwork and encourage mental as well as physical challenges.

Since then the competition has demonstrated its appeal both to corporate giants such as BT, Sun Life, Lloyds TSB, SmithKline Beecham, Whitbread, American Express and British Aerospace, and to the "minnows" who enjoy taking on the big boys. Through sponsorship, each team can raise money for a favoured charity or for this year's designated beneficiary, the Cancer Research Campaign.

Its purpose is to encourage high levels of fitness among staff and to foster loyalty and commitment. It aims to teach individuals how to work as a team, make the best use of resources and reach the right decisions.

The competition is spread over four days and, after a warm-up, is divided into eight or more stages, including a night exercise. The organisers aim to keep the details secret until the morning when the teams are presented with the day's route card.

Each stage is likely to include the use of boats, bicycles or ropes, but for the most part competitors have to rely on their feet, covering up to 70km (43 miles) over the four days. From a start at around 8am, a successful team can hope to be putting its collective feet up by mid-afternoon but, if things go wrong, it may be still struggling late into the night.

The 100-strong back-up staff is equipped with a dozen four-wheel-drive vehicles, minibuses, Transit vans, crowd barriers, ropes, safety helmets, harnesses, life jackets, canoes, paddles and mountain bikes. Accommodation is needed for up to 700 people, who also need to be supplied with three meals a day.

Although it happens to be run mainly by ex-servicemen, the competition organisers are anxious to dissociate themselves from the traditional military view that decisions are best left to officers, while other ranks are required simply to do as they are told. Participation is essentially a co-operative, democratic venture, in which all team members are expected to pull together.

Experience in more enlightened offices and factories has consistently shown that this is by far the best way to get the most out of people, and to avoid boredom and resentment on the part of those who feel they have not been given any responsibility. Factory workers organised into decision-making teams have shown notable increases in productivity.

Best foot forward: competitors take up the challenge

"I think the product is about right, but I also hope we can make the standard of competition higher than last time," Mr Bishop says. "I am equally keen to stress that everybody should be able to achieve something. I don't want people to go away disappointed, feeling that they have wasted their time.

"We try to strike a balance between experienced teams who have trained hard and newcomers who may not have reached the same level of fitness and are not sure what it is all about.

"But at all levels you have got to be a self-starter, a problem solver and a team player to win through."

There is still a strong physical aspect to the competition, he concedes, but it has changed from a few years ago when it was essentially an endurance test with relatively few extra challenges en route. Now the aim is to encourage more people to take part by posing intellectual problems as a balance to the bodily demands.

The problems will be set by Robert White, director of Lucidus Management Technologies and an old friend of Mr Bishop. Lucidus clients include BP Chemicals, Pilkington Glass and the Army's Quartermaster-General's Department.

For the next three years Challenger will also have a new sponsor in Securicor, which takes over from the Canadian company, Mitel, and will therefore be responsible for organising the millennium event in 2000.

"We still need leadership, which is definitely not as old-fashioned a concept as some people pretend," Mr Bishop says. "But it can't be as dictatorial in civilian life as in the Armed Services. Today's leaders must inspire by example and persuasion.

"After all, you can't coerce people into doing something they have no wish to do. In the commercial world everyone has the right to hand in their notice."

Dartmoor here we come

Philip Pearce, the man responsible for setting the course for the Securicor Challengers Trophy, is brimming with enthusiasm for the 1998 choice of venue — Dartmoor.

"It will give us much greater scope because of its sheer size and the variety of terrain," he says. "I hope too that we will get permission to use other parts of Devon, so that, for the first time for many years, we will be able to incorporate beaches, cliffs and estuaries.

"The Ribble Valley in Lancashire, where we staged this year's competition, was splendid, but was a much more homogeneous area. Devon and Dartmoor should provide much more variety and it should be great fun."

Fun is certainly the keynote of the centre from which next year's competition will be staged. Barton Hall, near Torquay, is a former country house, now surrounded by chalets in the grounds and run by the Pontins Group as a holiday and leisure complex.

Mr Pearce says that it will be January at the earliest before he is able to plan the course in any sort of detail. But, like Peter Bishop, he is keen to put more emphasis on the mental aspects of the challenge.

"Competitors will not simply be required to run from one place to another," he says. "They will have to assess the best routes with choice of checkpoints, each scoring different values, and will have to work out which ones to go for. It's a bit like calculating profit and loss in business."

He adds: "Schemes in other countries have required trained athletes. For this competition people simply have to be prepared to train, say, three evenings a week and occasional weekends. That way they should be fit enough."

Mr Bishop describes Dartmoor as the most challenging terrain yet faced: "Two years ago we went to the Peak District, but our access was confined by the park authorities. Dartmoor is also a National Park, but I am assured we will be free to roam off the beaten track."

Barton Hall will certainly be more luxurious than the stable block in Chepstow which served as headquarters for one of the earlier events. "It was May and it poured with rain and the buildings were flooded," he recalls.

"Barton Hall has the additional advantage that teams will have to be bussed out each morning and won't be able to reconnoitre the terrain in advance. So there will always be an element of surprise, which should make for fairer competition."

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The Securicor Challengers Trophy will be no picnic.

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Names like American Express, BP Oil, Lloyds TSB, MoD, Orange, Sun Life Assurance and Whitbread will be in the thick of things.

Besides the opposition, each team will be facing a series of energy-sapping, mind-stretching outdoor challenges, using maps, compasses, mountain bikes, ropes, canoes and their wits.

To qualify for entry each team member must have a commitment to teamwork, communication, leadership and problem-solving. (A sense of humour also helps!) And when they eventually finish they will be better equipped to contribute to their company, big or small. The Securicor Challengers Trophy will take place between 4th and 6th June 1998 at Barton Hall near Dartmoor. If you are interested to find out more, you can start by rolling up your sleeves and calling our number.

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1997 Results Table

Top 50 Places

1	ORANGE	26	CABLE & WIRELESS
2	SEDGWICK	27	AMERICAN EXPRESS
3	SUN LIFE ASSURANCE	28	LOMBARD BUSINESS FINANCE
4	SHORTS MISSILE SYSTEMS	29	ORANGE
5	BOWRING	30	BACON & WOODROW
6	LLOYDS TSB	31	CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
7	BT	32	ASE CONSULTING
8	CARDIFF COUNTY COUNCIL	33	SUN LIFE ASSURANCE
9	ICL SORBUS	34	SEDGWICK
10	SMITHKLINE BEECHAM	35	GCHQ
11	BT	36	MoD
12	LILLY	37	BRITANNIA REFINED METALS
13	NORTHUMBRIAN WATER	38	BOWRING
14	AMERICAN EXPRESS	39	LLOYDS TSB
15	TETRA PAK	40	AMERICAN EXPRESS
16	DEK PRINTING MACHINES	41	EQUANT
17	ASE CONSULTING	42	LLOYDS TSB
18	WHITBREAD INNS	43	LLOYDS TSB
19	MITEL	44	SAVE & PROSPER
20	MoD	45	BP OIL
21	ITSA	46	DUDLEY BOWER FACILITIES
22	DISTA PRODUCTS	47	CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN
23	AVON COSMETICS LTD	48	ORANGE
24	3i	49	BRITISH AEROSPACE
25	ELANCO	50	RS COMPONENTS

هكذا من الأهل

A fine balance of brawn and brainpower

Rodney Hobson hears from last year's winners what it takes to triumph

If the future is Orange, then that is because of the lessons learnt in the past. At the third attempt, the telecoms group has won the Challengers Trophy.

Two years ago, a couple of employees from a military background suggested putting in a team. Mark Evans, project office manager, explains: "They were interested in taking part in an event that would stretch them physically, just like exercises in the Forces. We had no idea what the Challengers Trophy was going to be like and we put in a very physical team. We did not know that you needed team members with mental agility too."

Lacking the balance that is needed to become serious contenders, Orange's initial entry came 35th. However, the members were far from daunted. They enjoyed the event so much that the following year Orange entered three teams: one came first in the mixed event and another was fourth. Spurred on, the group again raised three teams and this year one of them snatched the title by just a few seconds after four days of intense competition.

On target: a member of the Orange team tees off in the night exercise

Mr Evans says: "The euphoria of this year's event has given the company a fresh impetus. Everyone knows this is something we are going to keep on doing and that we are well established as contenders. It fits in with the company being like a family. It gives the staff a feeling of togetherness."

He believes that, both internally and dealing with other companies, the networking aspect of the competition is important. People in different departments who do not normally work together learn who in the company can get things done if a problem arises. Contacts are also forged with potential customers and suppliers.

"You learn to question what works well and why. That helps people to understand how to get on together," Mr Evans says.

CT Bowring, now part of the Marsh McLennan international insurance group, has been a winner for three years in a row. Two years ago the company carried off the women's trophy and last year it was the overall winner, with the women's team second in its section. This time two teams were entered and the women triumphed again.

Bowring has a reputation for offering a wide range of social activities for its employees. Clubs include chess, badminton, walking and yachting, so it is hardly surprising that competition for the women's team is keen.

Victoria Cook, team captain, says: "We try to keep fit and we always start with many more people than we need. Over a period of time some drop out, either through injury or because of other commitments. This event does take a lot of time and commitment. We get down to a hard core from which we make our final selection."

The team members come from a cross-section of departments — this year no two members came from the same part of the operation. They included a broker, a director and an accountant. They also represented a cross-section of natural abilities.

Miss Cook stresses the importance of teamwork in the challenge. She says: "With teams of six and four taking part in each event, those who are not involved in a particular event have to back up the others. They have to run round fetching and carrying."

Bridge building: working small miracles with pipe cleaners and a bit of ingenuity

Positions in the office count for nothing. In the final analysis, Miss Cook must take the ultimate decision although she gets the whole team to try to agree on tactics. Having people from different departments probably helps.

For others, though, there is the anguish of what might have been. It is hard not to sympathise with Sun Life, the insurance group that went into the penultimate round as the leader. The crucial challenge was to build a bridge with materials such as pipe cleaners that would hold a certain weight.

Wayne Lewis, Sun Life team captain and training coordinator, explains what went wrong: "The company puts a lot of effort into this event and we trained for four or five months. We hoped to consolidate our lead in the bridge building so we were cautious, but with hindsight we did not set our sights high enough.

"We did not realise what you could do with the items we had. Unfortunately the time bonus awarded for this section was out of proportion to the other challenges. It was possible to pick up a three or four-hour bonus time."

Although they realised they were now too far behind to have a realistic chance of winning, Sun Life went into the last round determined to prove a point and won it to secure third place.

They have previously finished first and second. Mr Lewis says: "We will be back next year. We are already looking for volunteers."

Why Securicor stepped in to take the baton

We like the fact that the challenge is linked to fundraising, says sponsor

The Challengers Trophy has a new sponsor in Securicor, *writes Rodney Hobson*. Begun in 1986, it found a sponsor in 1995 when Mitel signed a three-year deal. Now the baton for the next three years has been passed to the security and mobile telephone group.

Challenger UK prefers to keep just one main sponsor, whose company name can be included in the title of the trophy. But it also has lesser sponsors, such as suppliers of refreshments and equipment.

Rod Alexander, the director of Challenger Marketing UK, says: "Mitel loved their time with us. It was a superb sponsorship for them, but they had a change of personnel and decided not to renew the contract."

According to Mr Alexander, several companies were showing an interest in replacing Mitel — a Canadian computerised switchboard maker — but Securicor was the obvious choice. "Challenger had already been running in-house events for Securicor for some time, so they knew us," says Mr Alexander. "Their companies are household names, and it is household names that enter the challenge."

Griffiths: impressed

Securicor has run a similar type of competition in-house for nine years. Seven of its events were held in the Lake District, but those in the past two years took place in Surrey.

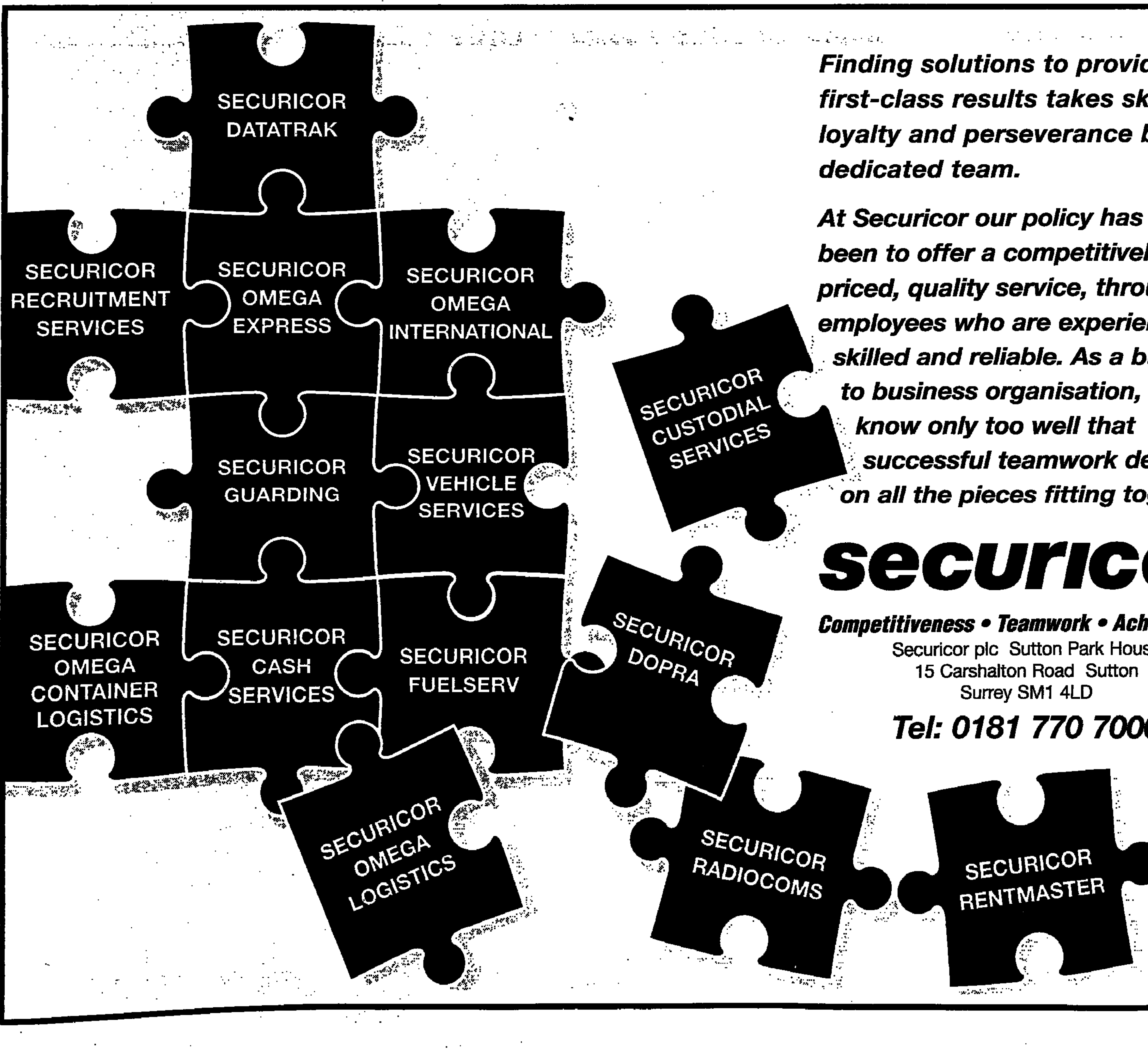
Nigel Griffiths, Securicor's group legal director, says: "Two years ago, Challenger helped us to organise the weekend event held at Reigate and Redhill. We were very impressed with the way they ran things and the tasks they set. When they asked to talk to us about sponsoring the Challengers Trophy, we were equally impressed with what they had to say.

"Life is very competitive and is all about teamwork, and that is what the Challengers Trophy is all about. It reflects the physical and mental effort that goes into a business. And most importantly, it is great fun. We like the fact that it is linked to a major fundraising exercise. If you can do something for the community, you should do."

As the new sponsor, Securicor expects to field at least two teams next year. With 25,000 employees nationwide, it should have little difficulty in finding a dozen suitable candidates.

The problem will be getting team members together from so many locations. One possibility is a play-off between Securicor teams from different parts of the business for the honour of representing the group.

The presence of Securicor teams will add a little extra spice to next year's tussle. Securicor owns 40 per cent of Cellnet, the mobile telephone company that is being challenged in the marketplace by Orange, winner of this year's Challengers Trophy.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Girl power unable to spice up EMI profit

Colin Southgate, Jim Fifield and the Spice Girls will be in the spotlight when EMI reports

EMI GROUP: Not even the Spice Girls will be enough to ginger up half-year figures due *out tomorrow* at EMI, where Sir Colin Southgate is chairman and Jim Fifield chief executive. In fact, the all-girl group may be having a detrimental effect on future earnings judging by the critics' verdict on *SpiceWorld*, their first film, and the poor showing of their latest album in the US charts.

Brokers are forecasting a downturn in pre-tax profits from £112.5 *million* to £71 million, with earnings per share dropping about 2p to 5.5p. This is almost entirely because of the sluggishness of *the music markets* generally and a slow release schedule. The strong pound will also have taken its toll, with a £20 million hit expected.

Apart from the Spice Girls, there has also been a muted response to albums from Janet Jackson and The Rolling Stones. New releases should accelerate in the second half *but brokers are not* over-optimistic about EMI's ability to make up the lost ground. However, the dividend should be raised from 4p to 5.4p, or 13 per cent.

RBS: Royal Bank of Scotland's *full-year results on* Thursday are the first to be published by one of the high street clearing banks and *should reveal a reasonable* performance. NatWest Markets expects pre-tax profits of £764 million, compared with £695 million last time, an increase of 10 per cent. *But the* impact of an increased tax charge should see earnings per share decline 4 per cent, from 54.1p to 52p.

Underlying pre-tax profits should be 14 per cent higher, at £732 million, reflecting strong growth in pre-provision profits. However, this will be offset to a certain extent by an increase in bad-debt provisions. Headline profit growth *will reflect higher disposal* gains and a £30 million hit from Budget tax changes.

UK banking will see profits rise £100 million to £641 million, but there is unlikely to be any recovery in Direct Line, the once high-flying insurance business. The payout should rise 13 per cent to 21p.

TATE & LYLE: *The City will* be hoping for signs of a recovery in the group's fortunes when it unveils final results on Wednesday.

Brokers are forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits, from £270.4 million to between £223 *million and £235 million*. This will be struck before an exceptional charge of £90 million, relating to asset writedowns, cost-base reductions and *currency* and *start-up* costs. The group will also have to take a £10 million trading loss on the chin after an attempted arbitrage operation in the Russian *sugar market* went badly wrong. Earnings per share will have declined by almost 60 per cent, to 16p. The dividend is likely to be pegged at 17p.

NATIONAL GRID: All eyes *will be focused on Energis,* the group's telecom arm, which is due to be floated before the year end, when half-year figures are released tomorrow. They are likely to reflect a sharp downturn in profitability. NatWest Markets, the broker, is *forecasting a drop in* profits at the pre-tax level, from £293 million to between £217 *million* and £235 million, with earnings per share dropping from 12.2p to 9.4p.

Fortunately, this setback is unlikely to affect the dividend, which is likely to be up about 8 per cent, from 4.45p to 4.8p.

SEVERN TRENT: *Attempts* at plugging leaks and increased capital *expenditure* will have taken their toll of half-year results due out tomorrow. Pre-tax profits are expected to come in about £7 million *lower*, at £195 *million*, although earnings per share should show a small improvement, up from 47.4p to 48.3p.

The regulated water business will have produced an otherwise solid performance. The payout will grow by around 12 per cent to 11.75p.

YORKSHIRE WATER: A flat performance is envisaged when interim figures are reported on Thursday. Brokers are looking for pre-tax profits *virtually static, at* £109 million, with earnings per share also unchanged, at 25p. But the group's underlying performance should please the City.

Profits will have been eroded by the revenue fine imposed by the industry regulator, while balance sheet *restructuring* will have resulted in increased financing costs. Meanwhile, *shareholders* can look forward to a 20 per cent rise in the dividend after the group's promise to maintain the cost of the interim payout in real terms even though the number of shares in issue has been reduced 10 per cent.

THORN: Interim results tomorrow should indicate to brokers whether they need to downgrade their forecasts for the full year. None of them are optimistic enough to expect a positive outcome. It has been *known for some time that sales* have been in decline, with the first quarter *down* 8.5 per cent and a 12.4 per cent reduction anticipated for the first six months as a whole.

As a result, pre-tax profits are expected to come in at *about £60 million* (*£79.3 million*). Earnings per share are also expected to have fallen 24 *per cent* to 10.6p. The dividend is most likely to be pegged at 13.3p.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC: *Further cost*-cutting at its core distribution business should have provided the base for improved efficiency *when the* group reports interim figures *on Wednesday*.

But rising interest charges could result in a small decline in profitability. At the pre-*tax* level estimates range from £103 *million to* £124 million, compared with £112.2 million last time, while earnings per share decline 6 per cent to 17.5p *on the* back of an increased tax charge. But this is unlikely to affect the dividend, which is expected to grow 11 per cent to 7.8p.

UNITED UTILITIES: What plans the new *management* has for the future will be top of the agenda when half-year figures are published on Thursday. Pre-tax profits have *been pencilled in* at around £230 million (£224 million). Some estimates are as high as £240 million. Earnings per share are likely to be unchanged at 39.8p.

Much attention will be paid to future dividend policy, with *the rate of growth in real terms* expected to fall from 11 per cent to between 6 per cent and 8 per cent. The payout this time grows from 12p to 13p.

WESSEX WATER: Modest headway is anticipated in half-year *numbers on Thursday.* Pre-tax profits should come in modestly higher, at £80 million, an increase of 5 per cent. Earnings per share should grow almost 20 per cent, to 29.7p. The payout should rise 12 per cent to 6.4p.

MICHAEL CLARK

Pre-Budget Report in spotlight

The *Pre-Budget Report* — the Chancellor's latest set-piece — will provide the main focus for the week. Markets will be anxiously awaiting the Treasury's updated economic forecasts to see just how far the economy is expected to slow next year, although a hefty downgrade in the public sector borrowing requirement forecast should bring some cheer to gilts.

Economists will also be looking at the text closely for hints of any tax changes in the Budget proper next March. The Chancellor could also use the opportunity to restate the inflation target and float EMU-inspired plans for housing market reform to bring the sector more into line with continental Europe.

Although it is largely a quiet week for UK data, the trade figures on Wednesday will be scrutinised for signs that the long-awaited slowdown in exports *is beginning* to come through. MMS International, the economic forecasting group, sees September's global trade gap widening from £513 million to £1 billion, although the October non-EU gap is likely to narrow to £550 *million, from £779 million* in the previous month.

In the US, the October *durable* goods data on Wednesday are expected to show the economy growing at a steady rather than spectacular pace. MMS predicts monthly growth of 0.5 per cent, compared with a fall of 0.6 per cent in September. Personal income *growth (Friday)* will also tick up slightly to hit 0.6 per cent in October, from 0.4 per cent the previous month, but there could be a slight downwards revision to third-quarter GDP data on Wednesday.

ALASDAIR MURRAY

TODAY

Interims: European Telecom, Majestic Wine, Manydown, The Monks Investment Trust, South Staffordshire Water Holdings. **Finals:** Paragon Group of Companies, Unidare, Waterfall Holdings. **Economic statistics:** *OECD report on US economy.*

TOMORROW

Interims: Amberley Group, British Biotech, EMI Group, Exmoor Dual Inv Tr, Gibbs Mew, Jarvis Hotels, Mountview Estates, National Grid, Oglesby & Butler Group, Severn Trent, Thorn, Tops Estates, Triplex Lloyd, VTech Holdings, *Wagon Industrial Hldgs*, Wynnstay Properties. **Finals:** Fidelity Asian Values, McCarthy & Stone, McLeod Russel Holdings, Nord Anglia Education, Quadramatic, VTR. **Economic statistics:** UK green Budget.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Airsprung Furniture Group, Amber Industrial Holdings, Caffyns, Hampson Industries, *Helical Bar*, Mid Kent Holdings, The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (Q3), Pillar Property Investments, Southern Electric, Trifast, Vendôme Luxury Group. **Finals:** Abacus Polar, Tate & Lyle. **Economic statistics:** UK *global trade balance (September)*, UK non-EU trade balance (October).

THURSDAY

Interims: Applied Holographics, BPB, Bristol United Press, Brockhampton Holdings, Caledonia Investments, Comino, Evans of Leeds, Johnson Matthey, Kewill Systems, London International Group, Metrotect Industries, *Sutcliffe Speakman, Symonds*, 3i Group, United Utilities, Wessex Water, Yorkshire Water. **Finals:** Advanced Power Components, Berisford, Concentric, M&G Group, Royal Bank of Scotland, The Scottish Investment Trust, Wigmore Property Investments, Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bristol Water Holdings, Cox Insurance Holdings, Fortis, GEI International, James Latham. **Finals:** Henderson Strata Investments. ***Economic statistics:*** Nationwide UK house price survey (November), UK British Bankers' Association monthly mortgage lending (October).

The Sunday Times: Buy Williams Holdings, IWP International, Network Technology, *Enterprise* Oil, Dalgety. *The Mail on Sunday*: Buy Prism Rail, Plasmec, Bovis. *The Express on Sunday*: Buy Chloride. *The Observer*: Buy British Aerospace, The Car Group. *The Sunday Telegraph*: Buy VFG, Amberley Group, Merchant Retail, TBI, Roxspur.

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CORPORATE PROFILE: *Smiths Industries*

THE FACTS

Market capitalisation: £2.4 billion
Turnover: £1.08 billion
Pre-tax profits: £191.6 million
Employees: 14,500
Activities: Aerospace supplies avionics for Boeing 737s and 777s, and for fighter aircraft. Medical systems includes SIMS Portex, making tubes and filters for anaesthesia and respiratory care. Industrial embraces ducting and hoses and Vent-Axia fans.

THE BOARD

Sir Roger Hurn, 59, has been chairman since November 1991, having previously been chief executive and managing director. Apart from two years with Rolls-Royce Motors, he has spent his entire career with the group. He is also deputy chairman of Glaxo Wellcome.

Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, 51, took over as chief executive a year ago, having joined the group three months earlier. His previous job was as president and chief executive officer of Saab Automobile.

Alan Thomson, 51, is financial director, and joined in April 1995. He was previously finance director of Rugby Group and has also worked for Courtaulds, Rockwell International and Raychem.

Norman Barber, 58, chairs the aerospace group. Previously a managing director at British Aerospace, he joined Smiths in 1991.

George Kennedy CBE, 57, is chairman of the medical systems group, which he has run since 1980. He is non-executive chairman of Carlco Engineering and chairman of the Association of British Healthcare Industries.

Einar Lindh, 51, is another long-time employee, having first joined Smiths in 1973. He became chairman of the industrial group in February 1996.

■ Non-executive directors: **Keith Orrell-Jones**, 60, is chairman of the senior appointments and remuneration committee. He is chief executive of Blue Circle.

Sir Peter Thompson, 69, chairs the audit committee. The former chairman of National Freight Corporation has been a director since 1986.

The other non-executive directors are: **Roger Leverton**, 58, replaced as chief executive of Pilkington earlier this year; **Alan Pink**, 59, a director of Zeneca; and **Robert O'Leary**, 53, the most recent appointment and the first American director.

A 40-year chapter is drawing to a close at Smiths Industries. Sir Roger Hurn, the man responsible for building the aerospace, medical and industrial group from its past as a watch and car component maker, is finally getting ready to retire.

Sir Roger is about to begin his last stint as chairman of Smiths, which he joined in 1958. Increasingly recognised as one of the heavyweights of British industry, he is tipped to take over from Lord Prior as chairman of GEC next year, a move he may announce at Smiths's annual meeting tomorrow.

Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, Sir Roger's chosen successor as chief executive, has already been in place for 15 months. Smiths has been anxious to portray the handover to the laid-back "KBW" as a smooth transition — hardly surprising, given the legacy.

When Roger Hurn became managing director in August 1978, Smiths was making £25 million a year on turnover of £285 million. Last year it made profits of £192 million on sales of £1.1 billion. Note the improvement in margins — the reason the company's reputation in the City towers above its lowly public profile. Over 15 years Smiths has improved its operating margins from 8 per cent to 18 per cent, lifting it into the FTSE 100 index.

Much of the growth has come from the astute acquisition of companies that most people have never heard of — HG Wallace, Intertech, Interplas, Adaptaflex, Leland, Torin and many more. The most important was 1987's Lear Siegler purchase, a $350 million deal that was crucial in establishing Smiths as an important "onshore" supplier to the US Department of Defence, and to Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Smiths has also proved skilful in its reading of the aerospace cycle, and its ability to secure orders on the most important and continuing aircraft programmes. Continuing this strategic nimbleness will be Mr Butler-Wheelhouse's hardest task.

Smiths prides itself on not making hostile bids; it prefers to be confident about what it is buying. "We believe passionately in doing very, very thorough due diligence before we do a deal," says Sir Roger. Despite numerous purchases, Smiths employs fewer people now than it did in 1980 — 14,500 as against 24,000.

The assembled group stands on three roughly equal legs. The aerospace business designs and makes cockpit and other electronic systems for both civil and military aircraft, and naval navigation systems. The division was recently strengthened by the £136 million acquisition of Graseby, a quoted company best known for its chemical weapon detectors. The surge in orders at Boeing helped Aerospace to improve operating profits 31 per cent last year, to £59.3 million, on sales of £377 million.

The medical systems division makes tubes and other disposable devices, drug delivery pumps and equipment for operating theatres. It is the group's most profitable business, last year's £74.7 million profit representing 24 per cent of its £306 million of sales. The Graseby deal has added infusion pumps and patient-monitoring equipment.

The industrial division is less coherent, but it has been the star performer in recent years, trebling profits to £60.6 million since 1993. It includes Vent-Axia, the fan and ventilation system company that is probably Smiths's best-known business. Its Flex-Tek arm makes the hose for the Dyson and other vacuum cleaners.

The group is controlled from an undistinguished brick building near Golders Green in North London, home to the senior divisional management teams as well as the head office staff — just over 100 in all. Sir Roger believes that having the divisional managers together in one location encourages a greater understanding of the problems faced in other parts of the group. This made it easier to continue investing in avionics when the aerospace industry was in a trough in the mid-1990s.

Mr Butler-Wheelhouse says the management culture is very participative, with managers encouraged to contribute to discussion of businesses outside their own areas of responsibility. Every week at "Monday prayers", he gets together with Alan Thomson, financial director, and with Norman Barber, George Kennedy and Einar Lindh — the directors who chair the aerospace, medical and industrial groups — to talk through the latest developments.

"We work as a very tightly knit group," says Mr Butler-Wheelhouse. "We don't just invest in companies. We actually try to run them and be involved."

Smiths says it does not take on companies unless they have some management talent to work with — hence the importance of due diligence. Mr Butler-Wheelhouse says: "We don't have armies of people on the payroll waiting to run the companies that we buy, so we are extremely interested in management."

The group's size will require it to turn its attention to bigger deals and better-known companies, with less opportunity to look inside to see what it is buying, and consequently greater risk. Mr Butler-Wheelhouse says it will continue to snap up businesses in the £20 million to £50 million range. But it has also recognised the need to pay more attention to organic growth. Since margins are already high, particularly in medical systems, it has little choice.

Smiths aims to protect those margins by constant development of what could often be commodity products. Innovation is most obvious in aerospace, but new product development extends right through to the humble vacuum cleaner tube.

The group's three divisions seem to have little in common, but Sir Roger shrugs aside any suggestion that Smiths might face calls for a demerger. Referring to the original car components business that he sold in the early 1980s, he says: "We have shown that we have not got any reservations about radical solutions. If somebody came along and offered us three times what the aerospace division is worth to us, we'd be barmy not to look at it."

Although Smiths has shed many staff over the years, Sir Roger believes the group enjoys harmonious industrial relations. He attributes this to good employee communications and the fact that part of the pay of all employees is based on business results. Early retirement packages have helped.

Crisp Consulting, which produces our "fat-cat" score, reckons Sir Roger's total package, including share options, was worth £1,638,344 last year — a 32 per cent underpayment. Smiths also scores well for the modest pay of the non-executive directors, 40 per cent below the FTSE 100 average. Still, the board looks overdue for an injection of new blood.

The group's lack of any clear statement of ethical intent failed to impress Integrity Works, which described its "ethical expression" as dated. The firm comments that Smiths' view that a succinct expression of ethical standards "serves no useful purpose" could create difficulties, especially under challenge from pressure groups.

Since he joined from Saab, Mr Butler-Wheelhouse has been careful to emphasise how little Smiths will change under his leadership.

One obvious change would be to reduce the group's overwhelming reliance on the British and American markets. Only about 12 per cent of Smiths' sales are with continental Europe. This is partly a reflection of Sir Roger's profound scepticism about the much-discussed restructuring of the European aerospace and defence industries.

So far, little has changed to challenge his view about the formidable political obstacles that stand in the way. But Mr Butler-Wheelhouse may look more kindly towards Europe.

PAUL DURMAN

From left, clockwise, Sir Roger Hurn, the chairman with 40 years' experience; medical equipment contributes to the most profitable of the three divisions; Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, Sir Roger's chosen successor for a company which has sales worth £1.1 billion; Aerospace has both civil and military applications

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"Smiths is the house that Roger built. The main issue is whether the new management can sustain the record. It's probably got the most consistent record of any UK engineering company. There's a certain amount of pressure on them to go out and spend some significant amounts of money — that's a risk. The avionics business is strong in its niches but quite small — ditto medical. Do they need to double up or get out? The thing that's kept Smiths ahead is that they have kept changing the portfolio." *Nick Cunningham, Salomon Brothers International*

"The organic growth potential is probably better than it's been for some time, given the upturn in aerospace. I don't think [Keith Butler-Wheelhouse] will change things. We might see slightly larger acquisitions." *Barnaby Wiener, Merrill Lynch*

OUR VERDICT

Ethical expression[1]	4/10
Fat-cat quotient[2]	10/10
Financial record	9/10
Share performance	8/10
Attitude to employees	7/10
Strength of brand	5/10
Innovation	7/10
Annual report	8/10
City star rating	8/10
Future prospects	7/10
Total	73/100

Ethical expression is evaluated by [1]*Integrity Works*. The Fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practice scores highest, is provided by [2]*Crisp Consulting*

Stock Outstanding (£m)	Stock	Price £	Wkly +/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)					
800	Treas 4½% 1998	116		3.99	6.34
3,550	Exch 9¾% 1998	100[illegible]	– [illegible]	9.72	7.14
8,150	Treas 7¼% 1998	100	...	7.25	7.29
970	Treas 14% 1998-01	103[illegible]	– [illegible]	13.58	7.25
935	Treas 15½% 1998	106[illegible]	– [illegible]	14.54	7.32
2,909	Exch 12% 1998	104[illegible]	– [illegible]	11.49	7.30
1,988	Treas 9½% 1999	102[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.28	7.27
3,050	Exch 12¼% 1999	106[illegible]	– [illegible]	11.52	7.22
1,252	Treas 10½% 1999	104[illegible]	+ [illegible]	10.03	7.14
6,950	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.10	7.04
1,798	Conv 10¼% 1999	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.70	7.12
5,358	Conv 9% 2000	104	+ [illegible]	8.65	7.04
9,800	Treas 8% 2000	102[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.78	6.96
109	Treas 8½% 2000	102[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.27	7.11
3,171	Treas 13% 2000	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	11.41	7.07
4,406	Treas 10% 2001	108[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.21	6.97
12,750	Treas 7% 2001	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.97	6.86
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)					
9,089	Treas 7% 2002	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.93	6.87
6,527	Treas 9¾% 2002	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.74	6.85
8,600	Treas 8% 2003	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.57	6.75
2,503	Treas 10% 2003	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.68	6.77
1,630	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	10.16	6.99
548	Fund 3½% 1999-04	89[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.93	5.51
3,412	Conv 9½% 2004	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.24	6.68
6,500	Treas 6¾% 2004	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.72	6.66
10,373	Treas 8½% 2005	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.62	6.58
4,842	Conv 9½% 2005	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.18	6.69
2,200	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.77	6.76
11,700	Treas 7½% 2006	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.07	6.58
4,000	Treas 7¾% 2006	107[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.21	6.61
2,050	Treas 8% 2002-06	104[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.65	6.88
3,150	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.71	6.63
7,397	Treas 8½% 2007	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.51	6.61
9,000	Treas 7¼% 2007	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.89	6.53
5,621	Treas 9% 2008	119[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.55	6.50
3,450	Treas 8% 2009	112[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.14	6.52
LONGS (over 15 years)					
4,750	Treas 6¼% 2010	97[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.44	6.58
5,273	Conv 9% 2011	121[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.42	6.59
5,360	Treas 9% 2012	122[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.36	6.50
1,000	Treas 5½% 2008-12	91[illegible]	– [illegible]	6.03	6.44
800	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	110[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.03	6.46
6,100	Treas 8% 2013	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.03	6.58
13,787	Treas 8% 2015	115[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.92	6.51
7,550	Treas 8¾% 2017	124[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.05	6.54
16,500	Tr 8% 2021	118[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.76	6.47
UNDATED					
1,909	War Ln 3½%	53[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.55	..
475	Treas 2½%	37[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.70	...
359	Consols 4%	59[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.79	..
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:				5%	3%
2,150	Treas IL 2½% 2001	192[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.28	3.59
2,400	Treas IL 2½% 2003	188[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.24	3.46
1,150	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	122[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.20	3.39
2,500	Treas IL 2% 2006	202[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.23	3.37
2,625	Treas IL 2½% 2009	184	+ [illegible]	3.19	3.30
3,100	Treas IL 2½% 2011	192[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.18	3.28
3,750	Treas IL 2½% 2013	159[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.17	3.26
3,825	Treas IL 2½% 2016	177[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.16	3.24
3,700	Treas IL 2½% 2020	166[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.18	3.25
3,850	Treas IL 2½% 2024	139[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.17	3.23
1,300	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	138[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.16	3.22

Credit card growth slows down

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE British passion for plastic money is showing signs of cooling and the novelty of the debit card in particular is beginning to dim.

While cards continue to be the fastest growing means of payment, as cheques lose favour, there is a marked decline in the rate of growth of card usage.

Card spending in October grew at 16 per cent year on year, half the rate of increase seen in the same month in 1996, according to figures published today by the Credit Card Research Group (CCRG). This is the third month of subdued growth.

The decline in spending in September was attributed to the mourning that followed the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. But the CCRG now believes the trend could also be indicating a slowdown in economic activity.

In 1996 the October card figures suggested that the nation had already begun its Christmas shopping. But CCRG could see no evidence of early seasonal spending last month.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6895 (-0.0052)
German mark
2.9531 (+0.0197)
Exchange index
104.5 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
3204.6 (+111.1)
FTSE 100
4985.8 (+244.0)
New York Dow Jones
7881.07 (+308.59)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
16721.58 (+1639.06)

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Offer document issued 22 November 1997

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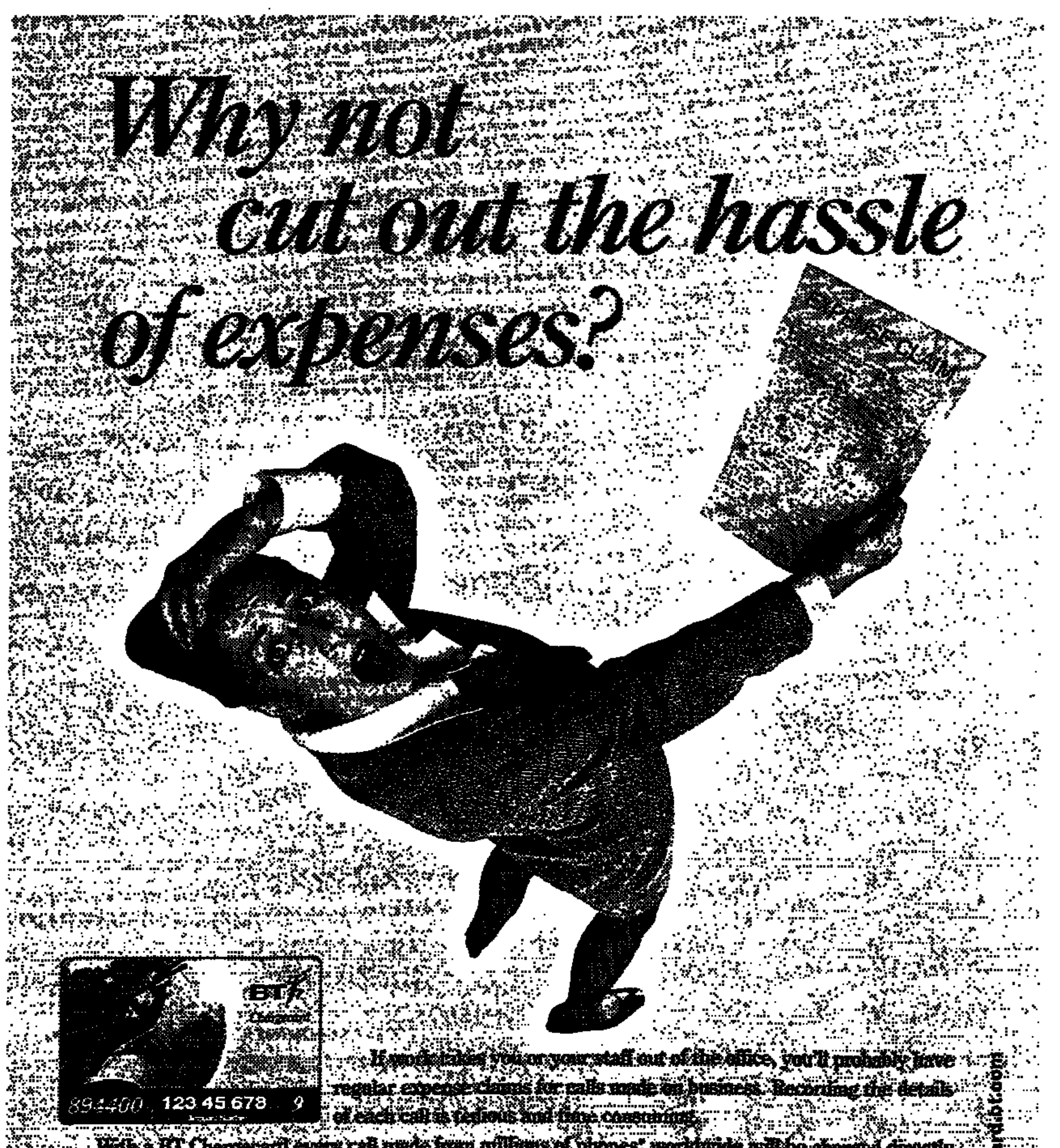

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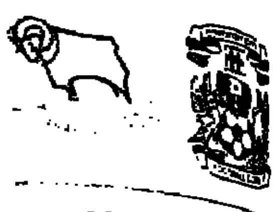
Strachan's week ends on lowest of notes



DERBY COUNTY 3
COVENTRY CITY 1

By Richard Hobson

هكذا من الاصل

Yorkshire Water to back 'tree' generator

By Jason Nissé

WORK is to begin in the new year on a £28 million project, backed by Yorkshire Water, to generate electricity from the branches of fast-growing willow trees.

The ecologically friendly scheme, at Egglington, north Yorkshire, is expected to be able to generate up to 10 megawatts of electricity — enough to supply 20,000 homes — by 1999 and will be the largest project of its kind in Europe.

The plant is being developed in a joint venture between Yorkshire Water, which is not known for its environmental record, and Termiska Processor of Sweden. Yorkshire will own 85 per cent of the shares and the project is expected to cost about £28 million.

About 800 acres of woodland is being planted in north Yorkshire to supply fuel for the generator. These forests will largely be made up of fast-growing willow trees which will be pruned back at the end of each season to provide wood for the plant.

Electricity will be produced in a process called gasification. The wood is placed in glass-lined metal cylinders and heated to temperatures as high as 900C, so turning it into gas to power turbines that generate electricity.

"This process produces more electricity more efficiently than burning the wood," said Keith Pitcher, project director for Yorkshire Water.

Mr Pitcher said that the *design of the plant had been* agreed and letters of intent had been sent out to contractors. Work is due to start as soon as the weather allows in the early part of the new year.

The process used in the plant can be adapted for other fuels, such as animal and human faeces, though this project does not have apporval from the European Commission to use those fuels.

Alfred McAlpine sells Hall & Tawse

ALFRED McALPINE, the builder, will today announce the £20 million sale of Hall & Tawse, its regional contracting business, to Mansell (Jason Nissé writes).

The *deal means* that McAlpine has now fully withdrawn from general contracting and will concentrate on housebuilding, civil engineering and special projects.

This objective was set out last year when McAlpine wrote off £30 million to withdraw from contracting. *However, when it bought* Raine for £84 million this year the deal brought with it Hall & Tawse, a contractor operating in the Midlands and the North.

Oliver Whitehead, chief executive of McAlpine, said yesterday: "We could not admit we were going to sell Hall & Tawse, but that has always been our plan."

Resourceful: Lawrence Steingold, left, finance director of Tetra, with Bob Critchlow

Tetra comes to market

TETRA, the company that designs and supplies software for enterprise resource planning, will this week float on the Stock Exchange through the placing of 12.3 million shares at 160p each, valuing the company at £40.3 million (Chris Ayres writes).

Dealing in Tetra's shares is expected to begin on Thursday, and the placing has been underwritten by HSBC Investment Bank, which is acting as sponsor and broker.

Bob Critchlow, the company's chief executive, said: "We are delighted by the response we have received from institutions and the enthusiasm we have seen for Tetra and its products, especially given the volatility of the markets over the past few weeks."

Tetra's products are sold and distributed in over 20 countries and used in more than 60. Its customers include DHL, Glaxo Wellcome, Motorola, Spillers and US Filter. The market for enterprise resource planning is expected to be worth £6.3 billion by 2000.

Chancellor's cue to flesh out the fine words of July

For some reason, British Budgets always conjure up the colour red. Perhaps it is the Chancellor's red box, or the fact that the accompanying Budget document, normally in a red cover, is known as the *Red Book*. Or is it the association with red ink? Whatever the answer, tomorrow the Chancellor *will* deliver the first "Green Budget". What on earth will he say?

Before any readers with *strong environmentalist* sympathies get excited, I should emphasise that you should not anticipate a string of *environment-friendly* measures, although he may well discuss "green" taxes as part of his overall tax review.

Green is rather meant to denote the status of this Budget as a discussion document. I should also emphasise that "Green Budget" is the unofficial title. The Treasury has apparently decided to call it the *Pre-Budget Report*. As such, it fills the slot previously occupied by the old *Autumn Statement* that Chancellors used to deliver in November to tide them over until March. Doubtless tomorrow's statement will cover much of the same ground. Accordingly, we should prepare for another of those fascinating accounts of the state of the economy, spiced with comments that laud the contribution of the current Government and denigrate the record of the previous one, as well as a revised economic forecast, and a progress report on the state of the public finances.

But we should also expect a good deal more. The original idea of a "Green Budget" was to lay down possible measures to be taken in the real thing, so that a period of debate and discussion could clarify the issues and improve the detail. In practice, this was always going to be difficult to pull off. Imagine that the Green Budget proposed a particular tax *change to take effect* next March. Seeing that it was on the cards, people would rush to get transactions done to pre-*empt the impending change. It* would be possible to prevent this by announcing that any measures that were included *in the March Budget* would be backdated to the "Green Budget" date in November. But retrospective taxation is unfair and *politically* unattractive.

Accordingly, it comes as no surprise that the jungle drums are telling us to expect no tax changes to be implemented tomorrow, and no backdating to November 25 of any measures announced in March. So tomorrow's event will surely stop well short of the "draft Budget" originally mooted. Nevertheless, we are told that the Chancellor hopes that it will spark a national debate. Above and beyond the usual seasonal fare, it will probably include discussion of reform of the welfare state and of the idea of enshrining in legislation a code of fiscal stability.

On the detailed tax front, favoured candidates for discussion include the introduction of a 10p starting rate of income tax, the abolition of advance corporation tax (ACT), and reform of capital gains tax (CGT). Many a private investor will salivate at the thought of reductions in CGT. I sense, though, that they will be disappointed. If Mr Brown does contemplate changing the tax, I suspect it will be to abolish the indexation allowance. Far from reducing the impact of CGT, this would increase it.

The discussion of the state of the economy will be more interesting than usual. For Mr Brown is in something of a pickle. Some members of the Cabinet are apparently uneasy about the most recent interest rate rise imposed by the Bank of England. According to *some* reports, the Chancellor is one of them. It is all very *well for* Mr Brown to shrug his shoulders and say "nothing to do with me, guv", but the two big decisions he has made since taking office have been to hand power over interest rates to the Bank and to eschew the big rise in taxes that would have reduced the pressure for higher interest rates. Stir in widespread investor anxiety about EMU and you had a perfect recipe for a strong pound, which would squeeze manufacturing and traded services while leaving consumers to enjoy their building society windfalls.

One of the chief drawbacks of giving power over interest rates, to the Bank is the separation of fiscal and monetary policy. Under the old regime, when the Chancellor was contemplating whether to raise rates he had a pretty good idea of what sort of Budget was in the offing. Equally, when he decided on the Budget he knew his own mind on interest rates. Under the current set-up, however, *the Bank's monetary policy* committee must decide on interest rates not knowing what the coming Budget will *have in store.*

One thing Mr Brown could usefully do tomorrow is to let it know, along with the rest of *us. Suppose he were to reveal* that not only will the Budget continue with the very tight squeeze on public spending *but it will also include some* further small net tax increases, implying a further fiscal tightening. This might help to stay the Bank's *hand* and to take some of the shine off the pound.

In his July Budget, Mr Brown said: "My goal is therefore to ease inflationary pressures without damage to industrial and exporting prospects and to do so in a way that is consistent with our long-term objective of high and stable growth and employment." Fine words. Tomorrow he should make it clear that he intends to follow precisely this path.

Answers from page *38*

AFFENPINSCHER

(a) A small breed of dog, related to the Brussels griffon. From the German *affe* a monkey or ape + *pinscher* a terrier. "The Affenpinscher is an alert, intelligent little dog of some 7lb to 8lb in weight. It has a round skull well covered with stiff hair. The colour is different shades of red, as well as grey and yellowish: while there is often a black mask."

ENORMITY

(c) Monstrous wickedness. From the Latin *e norma* out of the mason's square or pattern. *Enormity* (great wickedness) has drifted so far apart from *enormous* (very large) that the use of either in connection with the limited sense of the other is unadvisable. "Enormous sin" and "The impression of enormity produced by the building" are both etymologically possible expressions. But the use of the first lays one open to suspicion of pedantry, and of the second to suspicion of ignorance.

DESAI

(b) A native Indian revenue official or petty chief, under the British Raj. An Indian historical word. From the Marathi *desāī*.

DVORNIK

(a) A house porter. The Russian word, from Russian *dvor* a courtyard. Dvorniks play an even greater snooper's part in Moscow than in Paris. Hugh Walpole, *Secret City*, 1919: "I said good-night to every-one. I could hear their laughter at the bottom of the stairs for the Dvornik to let me out."

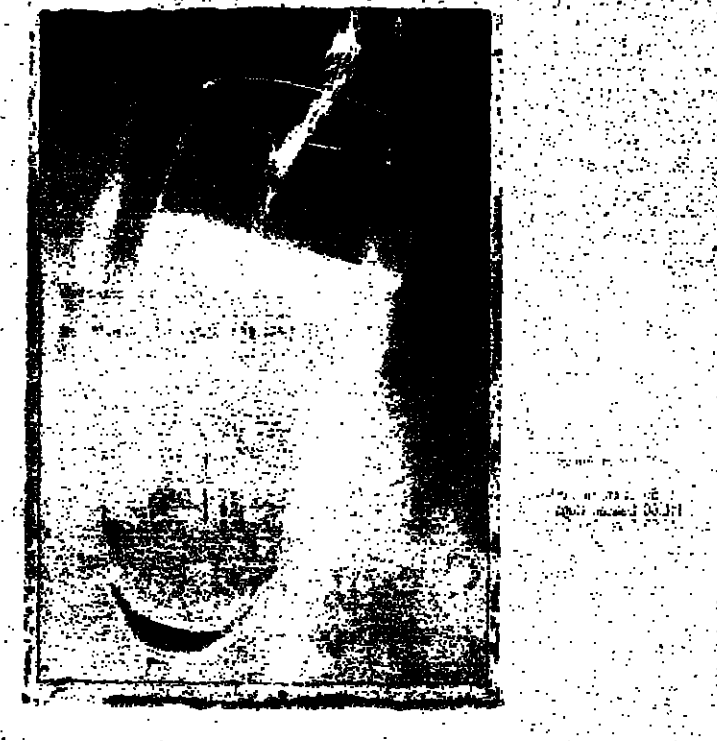
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Qxd5+! Rxd5 2 Bxd5+ Qb7 3 Bxb7+ Kxb7 4 Rc7+ Ka6 5 Rxe7 and White is a piece up.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.51	2.34	Malta	0.684	0.625
Austria Sch	21.76	20.10	Netherlds Gld	3.515	3.220
Belgium Fr	64.05	59.09	New Zealand $	2.85	2.61
Canada $	2.516	2.328	Norway Kr	12.60	11.66
Cyprus Cyp£	0.907	0.836	Portugal Esc	313.53	291.50
Denmark Kr	11.82	10.93	S Africa Rd	8.86	7.90
Finland Mkk	9.45	8.70	Spain Pta	260.29	241.50
France Fr	10.34	9.56	Sweden Kr	13.63	12.53
Germany Dm	3.11	2.87	Switzerland Fr	2.55	2.34
Greece Dr	488	449	Turkey Lira	328323	309445
Hong Kong $	13.88	12.68	USA $	1.784	1.651
Iceland	121	101			
Ireland Pt	1.19	1.10			
Israel Shk	6.34	5.89			
Italy Lira	3068	2832			
Japan Yen	226.43	208.80			

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.



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Investors to rebel at Walker Wingsail

By Paul Durman

SHAREHOLDERS in Walker Wingsail Systems, who have ploughed £12 million into the company, will next week try to oust the founder of the controversial group, which makes yachts with metal sails.

John Walker has spent half a lifetime trying to make a business out of his revolutionary idea for boats with metal sails. But after years of missed forecasts, some of his previously indulgent shareholders have finally lost patience. They are exasperated with Mr Walker's repeated requests for more money and with the numerous flaws that they allege exist with the only two boats that his Plymouth company has ever completed.

They say that the customers for one of the boats, Rodney and Maria George, have refused to accept delivery.

Charles Howeson, a retired Royal Navy commander, was approached to take over as chairman two months ago. He came to believe "the company was fast approaching a position where it would be trading insolvently". Walker Wingsail is currently trying to raise a further £1.5 million from its estimated 6,500 shareholders.

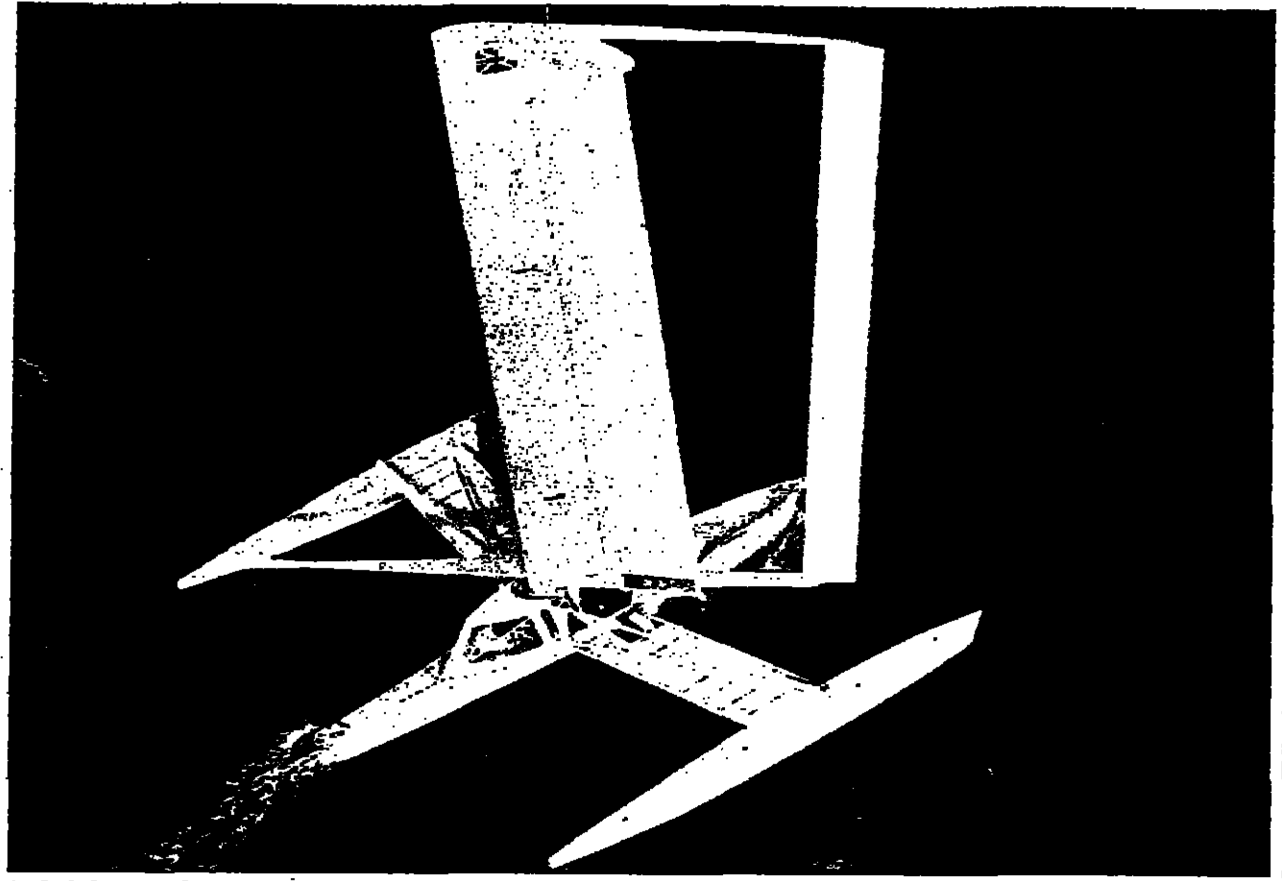
Mr Walker also faces legal threats from the US. Wingsail USA bought the first of Walker Wingsail's Zefyr 43s with the intention of acting as the US distributor for the boats. But the owner of Wingsail USA is now seeking damages of more than £1 million, claiming that Mr Walker arbitrarily cancelled the distribution deal.

The shareholder group is urging fellow investors not to adopt Walker Wingsail's accounts at the annual meeting next Saturday. In a circular, the group says: "We have to conclude that the 'illustrative projections' for the next 12 months and for the next five years are no more believable than any others which have been made in the past. We do not believe these forecasts, and we no longer have confidence in any statements issued by the current management."

Despite the years of disappointments, shareholders still believe in the wingsail technology — aircraft-style wings, mounted vertically and controlled by computer, and said to make sailing much easier. The activist group wants to install new management, to cut costs, increase sales, tackle the quality problems and eliminate the threat of litigation.

Mr Walker, who did not respond to a request for comment, is said to regard these moves as an attempt to take control of his company for a nominal sum. Commander Howeson describes this as "a conspiracy theory totally without substance".

Mr Walker, 60, has spent nearly 30 years developing his idea. Walker Wingsail originally raised money under the Business Expansion Scheme. Aided by his chatty newsletters, Mr Walker has successfully wooed his shareholders to put up more money. Jim Lancaster, an adviser to the shareholder group, believes that Mr Walker has already secured £400,000 with his latest cash call.


Rebel shareholders believe in the wingsail technology but want new management to cut costs and increase revenues

Battle over BTR unit takes shape

By Chris Ayres

BTR, the engineering conglomerate undergoing a radical disposal programme, is understood to be in negotiations with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the American buyout firm, to sell its international packaging operations.

CVC Capital Partners, the UK venture capital buyer, is also believed to be interested in the division, which includes brand names such as Formica and Rockware. Both CVC and KKR are expected to put forward bids this week.

The packaging operations, based in Australia, China, Europe and Mexico, are highly profitable and have margins of more than 20 per cent. Brokers have valued the division at £2.7 billion, although some analysts believe it could sell for more than £3 billion. Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, is handling the sale for BTR, which is part of a programme designed to raise more than £3.5 billion.

This month, as part of its restructuring, BTR sold most of its polymers division for £515 million, in the second largest UK management buyout of 1997. The 33 businesses were sold to a buyout vehicle called UniPoly, funded by Legal & General Ventures and Fuji Bank of Japan.

Penny share firm fined by Fimbra

By Gavin Lumsden

A DEALER in the penny share market has been fined a record £350,000 and ordered to pay £69,175 costs by a City regulator.

The Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Association (Fimbra) said it had terminated London Corporate Securities' membership for failing to observe high standards of integrity and fair dealing.

Fimbra said LCS lacked the grounds for believing its recommendations were either suitable or of benefit to its clients and had not provided an adequate explanation of the risks involved in penny shares. The company had also failed to obtain signed agreements before entering into transactions where there was clear conflict of interest and had not effectively monitored its staff.

This is the fourth fine in a year that Fimbra has levied on rogue penny share traders. In April and July it fined City Equities and Park Equities £250,000 each.

Earlier Danesfield Securities had to pay £75,000. Four other penny dealers have yet to be admitted to the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator which has largely superceded Fimbra.

CBI leaders press Blair to make EMU work

By Philip Bassett and Deborah Collcutt

LEADERS of the Confederation of British Industry will today press the Government to make economic and monetary union a success when it takes over the presidency of the European Union.

Their call, which will anger anti-EMU business leaders who have attacked the CBI's support for the single currency, comes as Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for European Trade and Competitiveness, hinted that Britain may be ready to join EMU in the second wave in 2002.

Speaking on Friday after the annual European Banking Congress in Frankfurt, Lord Simon said that if the circumstances were right Britain could become a member sooner than currently expected.

"Technically speaking, if the preparation goes correctly we could join in 2002," he said, adding that there is a six-month "grace" period when Britain would be able to make the final adjustments needed to enter the currency union.

CBI leaders are pushing aside criticism of the confederation from some of its member companies for being too pro-EMU by maintaining that the UK Government must work to make the single currency a success when Britain takes over the presidency of the EU on January 1.

Tony Blair will set out Britain's objectives for its European presidency when he and a team of senior ministers launch the UK's new EU role early next month. But before then CBI leaders have already sent Mr Blair proposals that they regard as priorities for Britain's presidency. The CBI sets out five key business objectives for Britain's six months "in the hot seat" of the EU presidency: completing and enforcing the EU single market, redefining European social legislation priorities, preparing for European enlargement, reinforcing Europe's commitment to liberalising world trade, and "preparing for EMU".

CBI leaders say that the UK's presidency "comes at a crucial time for EMU. Strong leadership will be required to ensure that the conditions are in place to give EMU the greatest probability of success.

Midland staff vote on strike

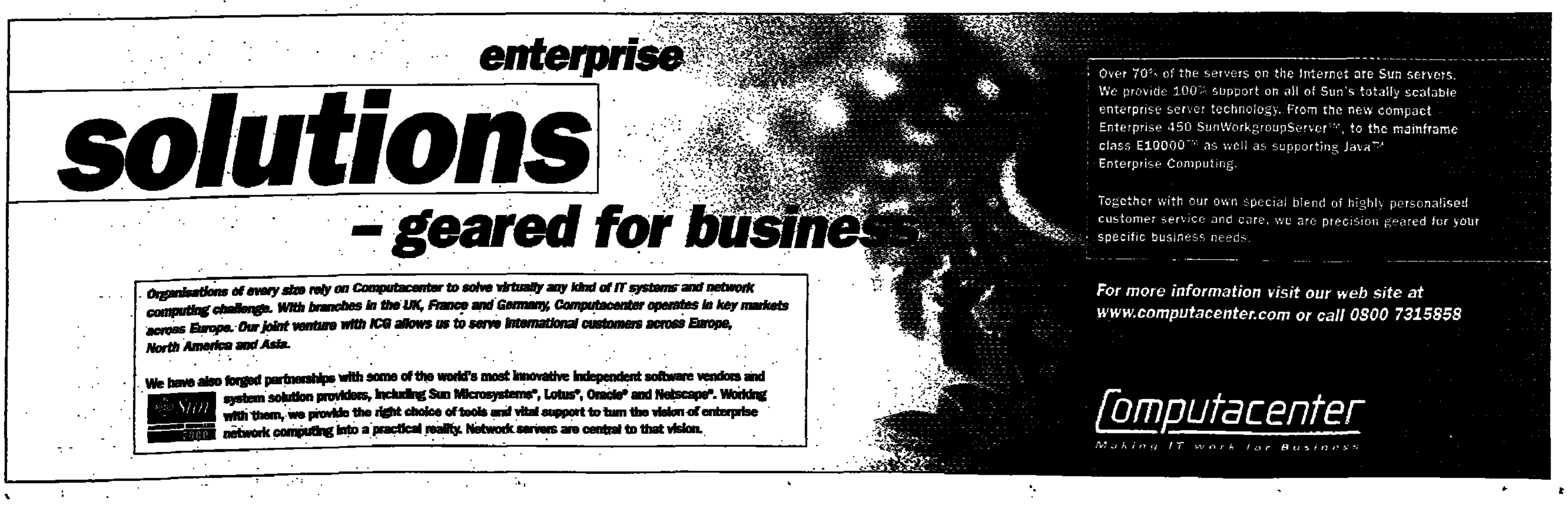
MIDLAND BANK staff begin voting today on whether to strike in protest at the high street bank's decision to stay open on the afternoon of Christmas Eve (Adam Jones writes).

About 20,000 members of the Bifu finance union are being balloted on the proposal to strike on Christmas Eve. Voting continues until December 11 and the result will be announced the next day.

At Barclays Bank, members of Bifu and Unifi, another union, are already due to strike on Christmas Eve in protest over a new performance pay system.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1997 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/−	Yld %	P/E
139½	100½	13.50	AFA Systems	112½	...	...	...
153½	131½	18.90	AMCO Corp	132½	−1	6.1	5.8
422½	170	40.50	AND Int Pub	185	−2½	...	...
137½	84½	8.20	Abacus Recruit	126	+1½	1.5	...
195	99½	30.70	Accent Plus	185	+5	3.5	21.2
89¼	5¼	3.30	Active Imaging	8	...	...	...
230	200	31.30	A de Gruchy	210	...	4.4	10.7
11¼	6¾	8.23	African Gold	8	+¼	...	32.3
117½	72½	36.80	Airtech	80½	−5	...	...
44½	31¼	12.70	Albemarle & Bd	33½	−1	1.9	12.7
52½	29	5.62	Alizyme	32½	−2	...	...
111½	73½	2.40	Anglo-Welsh	77½	...	1.6	...
610	455	57.50	Ann St Brewery	599	−1½	4.5	10.8
1240	1015	7.20	Ann St Cv Pf	1215	−2½	6.6	...
129½	85½	71.60	Antonov	93½	−3	...	...
148½	99½	19.00	Aortech	110½	−4	...	...
105	90	4.64	Aram Resources	90	...	5.8	...
100½	90	9.18	Archer Dedicated	90	...	1.1	...
262½	130	51.00	Ask Central	245	+7½	0.3	37.9
68½	64½	1.22	Athelney Trust	67½	...	1.9	58.4
32	9½	18.50	Atlantic Caspian	15	...	...	...
103½	60	45.60	Avalon Oil	80	−1½	...	...
144½	120½	38.90	BATM Adv Comms	125	+4	2.4	...
240	14½	8.16	BKG Res	20½	−3	...	...
3¾	3½	2.57	Bakery Services	3½	...	...	19.1
59½	25	8.69	Barbican Health	45	−½	...	...
12½	6½	31.50	Barrasford	11½	−¼	...	...
3¾	1¾	3.30	Beachcroft	1¾	...	...	6.7
4½	2½	5.80	Beaufort	3	...	2.6	18.6
45½	36½	6.50	Bickerton	42½	−½	...	17.5
90	60	1.22	Billam	76	...	8.7	23.2
76½	43½	3.92	Bilston Battersea	44	...	4.3	22.8
2¼	1	5.77	Birchin Intl	1½	...	...	...
1¼	0¾	0.07	Birchin Wts	0¾	...	...	...
64	33½	19.20	Birmingham City	38½	...	...	...
80½	70½	7.25	Blakes Cloth	72½	...	2.5	7.9
225	145	1.57	Bowness Leis	225	...	2.8	8.4
62½	39½	7.36	Brancote Hldgs	40	...	...	...
97	85	3.99	Br Bloodstock	95	+2½	2.6	11.6
18¾	16¼	0.78	Buckland Inv	18½	+1	...	...
12	8	0.08	Buckland Inv Wts	10	...	...	...
200	144½	23.60	CA Coutts Hldgs	200	+14	2.0	15.9
180	128½	11.90	C & B Publishing	165	...	...	15.2
109½	109½	0.12	CCI Founder Shs	109½	...	...	...
190½	140½	1.51	CCI Hldgs	187½	...	1.9	8.5
215	170	10.10	Cafe Inns	205½	+10½	1.8	15.6
70	55	7.98	Caledonian Tst	60	...	...	10.2
18¼	9	4.05	Cambridge Min Res	18¼	+2¼	...	...
3¼	2	2.70	Cambury Inv	2	...	...	...
1½	0½	0.68	Cambury Inv Wts	0¾	...	...	...
51	29	40.60	Card Clear	38½	+2½	0.3	35.2
97½	52½	5.50	Carisbrooke Ship	54½	...	8.0	8.8
62	45	2.53	Cassidy Bros	46	−1	8.2	52.6
57¼	42½	2.22	Cavendish W	50½	...	4.2	23.2
18	10½	3.84	Celebrated Group	11½	...	3.2	20.7
£550	£245	73.50	Celtic	£245	−500	...	15.4
£450	£225	43.50	Celtic Pf Shs	£235	−1000	1.5	...
112½	96½	23.50	Cl Comms(TV)	107½	...	3.7	12.3
65	49½	11.30	Charlton Ath	51½	...	...	16.1
9¾	6¼	8.50	Charterhouse	8½	−¾	3.4	11.9
37½	12½	1.44	Chartwell Intl	12½	...	...	...
170	88	166.60	Chelsea Village	105½	+1	...	...
265	90	7.26	Chemical Design	110	+5	...	...
109½	92½	33.80	Citadel	102½	...	...	...
110	105	0.94	Clan Homes	105	...	...	27.9
4½	2	0.84	ClubPartners	2	...	...	...
36½	7	14.20	Coffee Rep	26	−1½	...	...
152½	105½	15.40	Comino	127½	+22	2.1	11.8
587½	527½	13.50	Com de Pd Fin	562½	...	2.1	...
155	109½	7.89	Computerland UK	131½	−1	1.4	19.7
90	14	8.97	Concurrent Tech	18½	−1	1.4	35.7
150	95	0.25	Conc Tech A Pf	100	...	...	...
150	95	0.20	Conc Tech B Pf	100	...	...	...
200	125	1.01	Conc Tech Rd Pf	150	...	...	...
300	150	0.17	Conc Tech Cv Pf	225	...	...	...
41	31½	8.73	Conister Tst	39½	...	6.3	9.8
4½	2	5.46	Corporate Exec	3½	...	...	...
37½	6½	6.41	Cross Intl	15	...	...	...
153½	153½	8.47	Cresco Intl	153½	...	...	...
290	205	3.88	Crown Eye	242½	...	6.4	20.1
28½	2½	1.29	Crown Products	2¾	...	...	6.9
22½	18½	0.94	Dalkeith Inns	19½	...	...	...
252¼	115	11.80	Dawn Til Dusk	245	+15	0.8	19.0
282½	180	110.60	Dawson Hldgs	195	+2½	3.1	18.8
174½	167½	10.60	Deep Sea Leisure	167½	...	...	23.8
4½	2	4.84	Dentmaster	3¾	−½	3.0	...
460	295	39.30	Dicom	305	−2½	1.0	...
105½	89½	13.90	Digital Animatn	94½	...	...	...
101½	74½	8.26	Delyn Group	95	...	2.6	45.9
72½	30	6.20	Dirrtek	33	−6½	...	...
310	240	12.40	Dobbies Garden	259	+15	2.2	15.2
152½	122½	15.20	Dragons Health	152½	+9	0.5	17.3
3¼	2	2.08	Drings of Bath	2¾	...	...	25.5
42½	30	3.38	Eagle	34½	...	...	...
89½	49½	18.30	Easynet	89½	+7	...	...
462½	207½	78.60	Elec Retail Sys	372½	−45	...	...
60½	27½	30.70	Electrophoretics	39½	...	...	...
52½	7½	2.80	Epic Multimedia	12	−1	...	...
65	45	11.60	Epicore Netwks	45	...	...	...
275	110	4.25	Eurasia Mining	115	...	...	...
27	19	1.72	European Mng Fin	21	−1	...	...
2½	2½	0.03	European Mng Fin Wts	2½		...	...
180	125	7.20	Euro Sales Fn	180		...	17.1
9¾	3	3.69	Fairplace Cons	3		...	...
350	140	4.81	Farlake	185	−5	...	14.4
77½	47½	7.83	Fayrewood	55½	+½	1.8	25.9
191½	101½	39.10	Fibernet	105	...	...	...
69½	34½	1.73	Fieldens	34½	...	...	...
242½	197½	5.53	Finl Objects	197½	...	...	36.4
14½	3½	0.71	First Inter	3½	−½	...	...
208½	109½	51.60	Fitness First	187½	...	...	67.5
230	110	3.38	Flomerics	130	...	2.9	63.7
292½	100	3.10	Flood St	100	...	1.9	6.6
32½	22½	4.72	FNR Hldgs	22½	...	...	...
152½	102½	10.90	Formscan	102½	−3	2.7	11.2
133½	89½	12.00	Fountain Forestry	133½	+8½	2.6	19.0
51¼	32¾	161.20	Freepages	32¾	−2¼	...	...
181½	140½	10.80	Furlong Homes	180	+2½	2.9	9.5
164½	62	7.27	Future Int Telep	65½	+1	...	...
296	129½	15.20	GB Railways	172½	−2½	...	...
65	47½	6.27	GR Hldgs	47½	−5	...	...
55½	45½	15.40	Gall Thomson Env	49½	+2	3.2	10.1
16¼	11½	38.70	Gander Hldgs	13¼	...	...	...
124½	82½	93.50	Gartland W&B	107½	...	1.8	5.1
153½	54½	151.50	Geo Int Media	151½	+7½	...	...
33½	12	27.30	Gold Mns Sard	21	+¾	...	...
26	7	8.03	Gold Mns Sard Wts	15	+1	...	...
127½	107½	66.40	Goshawk Insce	115½	...	1.3	...
3½	2¾	2.75	Grosmont Hldgs	2¾	...	...	...
1½	0½	1.80	Grosmont Hldgs Wts	1½	−¼	...	...
15¼	11¼	1.77	Grosvenor Ltd	14½	+¼	...	...
171½	140	38.60	Guiton	171	+1	3.5	12.9
8¾	5¾	2.59	Hansom	6¾	...	...	...
175	150	13.60	Hardy Underwtg	150	...	1.7	24.5
80½	52½	2.44	Hat Pin	55½	+3	6.1	18.4
325	275	6.83	Heavitree	325	..	2.7	15.1
275	245	11.80	Heavitree A	275	..	3.2	12.8
135	90½	5.46	Helicon Pub	92½	...	...	...
282	110	16.20	Hercules Prop	248½	+23½	1.2	...
175	105	10.70	Highams Sys	120	...	...	16.7
127½	120½	8.09	Highland Timber	124½	+4	...	...
93	65	1.44	Hurlingham	90	+9	1.4	57.7
107½	61½	6.23	Hydro-Dynamic	93	...	4.8	11.8
172½	57	11.50	IES	66½	−2	1.5	...
147½	134½	7.08	I S Solutions	147½	...	...	49.9
100	66½	25.30	Ind Brit Health	94½	−3	1.3	20.2
127½	55½	22.30	Indpt Energy	126½	...	...	...
139½	68½	12.30	Indpt Radio	68½	...	...	...
203½	141½	38.10	Infobank Intl	152½	−16½	..	..
74½	42½	14.50	Inner Workings	74½	...	..	..
125	102½	3.25	Integrd As Mgt	125		..	..
82½	20½	5.05	Intelligent Env	21½	−2	...	..
110	42½	23.00	Internet Tech	75	−5	...	..
151½	35½	23.10	Interoute Tele	89½	−½	...	...
442½	222½	57.80	Intl Greetings	437½	...	1.9	16.8
179½	59½	41.10	IOC Intl	165	+18½	...	..
172½	150½	7.55	ITG Group	171½	...	...	...
155½	60½	5.32	Jardinade Ints	60½	−4½	...	22.4
142½	82½	5.84	Jasmin	142½	+11	...	11.9
347	290	24.40	Jennings Bros	330	...	2.8	21.7
4¼	3	4.84	J Lewis Hford	3½	+¼	...	16.9
62½	40	7.37	Jordec	45½	...	...	...
5¼	1½	7.51	Just Group	3½	+1	...	...
132½	91½	46.00	KS Biomedix	108½	−2½	...	...
50½	45½	5.23	Kern River	45½	...	...	...
78	49½	5.77	Keystone Software	51½	−1	...	...
35	17½		Keystone Wts	18½	−3	...	...
199½	172½	18.80	Kingfisher Ls	193½	+1	1.3	16.1
130½	118½	5.14	Lady in Leisure	122½	...	...	...
98	92½	4.25	Landround	94½		4.4	16.6
132½	24½	8.71	La Senza	35	−1	...	...
150	85	17.40	Enterprises	93½	+1	5.9	...
395	340	27.30	Lawrence	390	+5	2.5	16.3
4050	3150	75.00	Lawrie Group	3950		2.4	10.3
99½	76½	7.03	Lepco	95		...	37.4
498	326	78.30	Le Riches Strs	471½	−1½	5.3	18.1
14	9	0.46	Life Numbers	9¼		..	...
4	2	0.06	Life Numbrs Wts	2		...	..
535	480	9.70	Loades	485	−10	0.3	19.3
106½	30	13.00	Lotus Road	32½	−3	...	.
12¾	4¾	2.13	Lon & Edin Publ	7		...	...
85	65	2.12	London Town	85	+5	3.9	7.4
119½	112½	3.88	Longbridge Intl	117½	..	2.1	16.4
87½	25½	6.38	Loot	27½	...	...	...
3¾	1¼	3.46	Lotteryking	2	...	...	68.0
1	0½	0.09	Lotteryking Wts	0½	...	...	...
88	36½	5.06	MMS Petroleum	41½	...	...	..
27½	7	4.78	Magnum Power	7½	...	...	...
330	239½	41.70	Majestic Wine	326	+20½	1.3	27.7
19½	7½	4.50	Marx & D'seas	7½	−½	5.4	41.5
102½	95½	27.10	Marlborough Int	102½			17.4
125	102½	2.36	Matrix Hlthcare	102½	−5	7.3	16.5
13¼	10¼	4.82	Mears Group	13	+¾	2.9	12.0
26½	13½	39.30	Medisys	23½	−2	...	
98½	68½	42.10	Megalomedia	68½	−½	0.4	32.5
93½	57½	0.63	Megalomedia Wts	57½	..	...	
67½	39½	2.80	Mellek	40	.	7.8	29.5
65	22½	24.40	Memory Corp	35	−2½	..	.
99½	70½	86.50	Metalsrussia	86½		...	...
165	12	0.92	Meteor Tech	13	−½	...	...
75	3½	0.34	Meteor Tech Wts	3½	...	...	...
71½	46	5.40	Methven's	63½	..	..	..
25	11	2.71	Metrodome	11	.	.	.
54½	50½	21.10	Minorplanet	53½		.	.
84½	57½	4.54	Mondas	74½	...	..	..
350	200	29.20	Moorepay	270	−2½	2.1	31.9
126½	68½	6.84	Mountcashel	90	..	.	
215	103½	21.40	Mulberry Group	103½	−4	1.8	17.7
40	2	0.94	MultiMedia	3¼	...		.
21	15	1.13	NECA	15¼		6.1	7.8
54½	44½	18.70	NMT	47½	−1	..	...
72½	52½	1.52	NRP	52½	...	3.0	22.4
182½	140	17.80	NSB Retail Sys	182½	+2	0.8	70.9
285	185	16.60	NWF Grp	210	+12	4.8	12.3
220	175	12.40	Nash (Wm)	177½	−2½	5.4	6.3
300	260	7.28	Ned Clark	260	...	1.8	18.4
65½	45½	9.14	Netcall	60½			
80½	75	1.52	Nethomes	80	...	.	24.8
50½	25	4.81	Nitro Petfin	26	+1	.	...
47½	28½	2.96	Northstar Sec	47	.		
22	3	0.43	Northstar Sec Wts	21½	.	.	.
124½	112½	49.00	Nursing Home	123½	...	5.8	17.0
10½	0½	0.25	Omnimedia	1	+¼	...	
97½	37½	1.25	On Line	38	−2	.	..
65½	25½	14.50	Oxford Biomedica	25½	−2		
3¾	1	14.80	Pacific Media	1			...
69½	25	16.00	Pan Andean Res	36½	−3½	...	..
245	220	5.76	Park Ests(Lv)	240	..	4.7	23.5
23¾	13	7.32	Pembertons	15¼			..
57½	29	6.59	Personal No Co	42½	..	..	..
146½	38½	42.40	Petra Diamonds	126½	..	..	..
117½	13½	1.69	Petra Dmnds Wt	101½	..	...	...
137½	21½	11.60	Philippine Gd	22½	−2½	..	...
70½	52½	11.90	Pilat Tech	55½	−2	.	12.2
138½	97½	23.50	Polymasc Pharms	117½	...	..	..
2¾	1¼	3.28	Pordum Foods	1½	...	...	44.9
1½	0½	0.22	Pordum Fds Wts	1	..	.	
21½	12½	10.90	Premier Asset Mgt	12½	−1		44.9
10½	2¾	12.20	Prestbury Leisure	9¼	..	0.4	37.3
590	490	9.86	Preston Nth E	490	−10	...	75.0
104½	92	14.98	Primary Hlth Pr	98	..	4.3	27.9
590	280	87.90	Prism Rail	347½	+35½	..	
85	56½	12.30	Pycraft & Arnold	79	+2½	..	12.7
127½	85	14.20	Q Group	85	−2½	...	62.0
1265	732½	232.50	Ramco Egy	770	−20	0.2	
110½	77½	14.40	Raphael Zn	97½	...	2.6	8.8
127½	77½	12.60	Recycling Servs	77½	−2	5.2	. .
125	28	4.53	Reflec	36½	−32	...	
7¼	4¼	5.80	Revelation Plc	6¼	+¼	2.0	7.4
45	17½	19.40	Riceman Insce	29½	−1	.	33.1
102½	74½	5.33	Romtec	102½	. .	1.8	22.0
147½	105½	9.83	SBS	138½		2.2	24.4
182½	147½	17.30	SCI Ent	147½	−2	..	13.8
42½	17½	4.34	SEA Multimedia	17½	.	. .	
75½	62½	6.81	Sanctuary Music	69½	...		6.1
114½	104½	5.63	Savoy Asset Mgt	114½		4.4	14.1
174½	139½	28.10	Science Sys	165½	−4	1.1	24.4
12½	5½	0.80	Scotswood Inds	7½		. .	
6	3¾	9.20	Screen	4½	..	..	18.6
350	230	12.50	Scruttons	360	+15	6.2	49.2
82	42½	8.29	Selector	42½	.	.	
30½	17½	1.01	Self Sealing	17½	..		
177½	154½	11.90	Shalibane	167½		3.3	13.9
104½	74	4.37	Shelton (M)	82½	−1	6.4	15.0
27½	12½	72.40	Sibir Energy	27	+1½	..	.
270	180	36.30	Sinclair Montrs	220	−22	...	47.8
4½	2¼	7.68	Sira Bus Serv	3½		1.9	15.8
1½	1	0.24	Sira Bus Wts	1¼	.	..	.
3¾	0¾	8.42	Snakeboard	1¼			
84½	67½	4.38	Solid State Sp	69½	+2	5.5	24.7
192½	152½	8.69	Solitaire	190½	. .	3.9	14.2
34½	25½	2.58	Soundtracs	25½	. .	5.9	7.6
6½	3½	5.67	South Beach Cafe	3½		...	
783	619½	179.20	Southern News	737½	−6	3.4	
79½	65½	15.70	Southern Vectis	79½	+5	3.3	16.5
327	173½	38.40	Staffware	317½	+3½	0.4	41.6
635	101½	19.60	Stanford Rook	101½	−14	.	
177½	124½	14.90	Stentor	127½	+2		
70	37½		Stentor Warrants	57½	.		
118	77½	18.50	Style Hldgs	118	+3½	1.6	14.5
155	127	14.50	Sutton Harbour	145	.	2.9	20.7
22	5	1.21	Syd Integ Rsch	9			..
23	15	3.27	TDS Circuits	15½	−1	.	5.8
97½	38½	6.48	Theo Fennell	40	−9½	.	18.0
14	5	9.45	Thomas Potts	5¼		2.5	15.7
37½	22½	2.85	Tom Hoskins	36½	−½		
158½	80	15.70	Total Office	97½	+13	6.2	6.1
675	375	33.30	TRACKER Netwk	627½	+17½	.	40.3
150	55	27.60	Tradepoint Fcl	100	−3		...
167	140	5.04	Trinity Care	140	. .	4.5	39.3
170	170	1.50	Trinity Care Pf	170	...	5.5	.
60½	17¼	96.80	Trocadero	19	−½		
40	38	3.46	Unwind	38		...	21.0
397½	317½	5.85	Utd Auctions	325		3.5	[illegible]
280	120	18.40	VDC	175	+5	3.7	16.3
53	45	87.20	Victory Corp	46	+1	.	.
242½	45	2.52	Viewinn	60	−11	.	
240	200	5.60	Voss Net	200	...		
88½	49¼	26.30	Waterfall	75½	+8	..	18.4
35½	27	6.37	Watermark	33½	.	3.0	11.1
7	5	7.25	Weeks Group	5½	.	2.3	9.9
115	75	3.28	West 175 Enter	80	..	.	
£280	£125	9.85	West Bromwich	£135			
13	10½	5.62	Western Selecta	13	. .	. .	51.7
4½	4½	0.28	Western Sel Wts	4½	...	.	.
142½	44½	15.50	Westmount Engy	138½	+2	.	
90½	80½	4.34	Whitecross	90½		...	
103½	45½	9.66	Winchester	78½	+3	..	. .
197	157	34.10	World Telecom	157	−6	...	
135	120	4.32	Wynnstay Props	135	.	4.6	17.3
12	6½	3.90	Xavier Comp	6½	−1	.	7.3
157½	91½	4.39	Yeoman	91½	−2	.	...
300	215	19.80	Zergo	215	−5	. .	63.3
29½	6½	1.73	Zicor Mining	7½	...	..	.



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When the music stopped for Seoul's merry-go-round

Technically, South Korea is bankrupt, writes **Rosemary Righter**

South Korea's foreign exchange reserves are down to $10 billion, or ten days of financing the nation's obligations

The Minister sat bolt upright across the dinner table, his smile fixed — there is no other word for it — in my direction. He spoke heavily accented English, which came out in staccato bursts, punctuated at every phrase with a quickfire "yes-yes" that did duty as a hesitation stammer. The stiffness seemed entirely appropriate.

This was no ordinary evening, although within 48 hours South Korea's reluctant decision that it had no option but to turn to the International Monetary Fund had made this encounter seem like the calm before the storm.

That was Wednesday. For the second day running, South Korea's foreign exchange market had suspended trading within minutes of the opening bell, arresting the won's descent only thanks to rules, changed the very next day, that stopped play as soon the currency shifted by more than 2.25 per cent.

The Finance Minister had resigned a couple of hours earlier and Lim Chang Yuel, his replacement, had rushed into a press conference with a long list of measures that revealed more about the Government's anxiety to show that it did not need the services of the IMF than it did about any real game plan for addressing the spectacular collapse of confidence in South Korea's economic prospects.

How there was to be a game plan until well after the December 18 presidential elections was unclear, with the three front-runners in the campaign competing with each other in the issue-avoidance stakes. The South Korean National Assembly's last act on Tuesday, before adjourning until next year, had been to kick into touch most of the financial reform bills judged essential to a return to economic health.

What has compelled action regardless of politics is that South Korea, the world's eleventh largest economy, is technically bankrupt. The Government, which used to boast about the health of its foreign exchange reserves, no longer releases the current figures.

The most that it will admit publicly is that at the end of last month, they were $30.5 billion (£18 billion) — less than three months' worth of imports, and barely more than the estimated $25 billion of short-term foreign debt that falls due within the next five weeks. That was grim enough to cause a collapse of investor confidence, but was still far short of the true picture.

The Times has learned that what the country's powerful bureaucrats in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and the Korean national bank did not disclose even to the President before this week is that the true figure is around $10 billion.

With forward contracts stacked up committing the central bank to sell dollars at a set rate, that amounted to about ten days' worth of financing. Between Wednesday and Friday, South Korea attempted to cajole Japan and America into bridging the gap.

When the answer came back that it could expect help only in the context of an IMF package, it had no other exit. Late on Friday night, President Kim Young Sam broke the news to a country told for weeks that all was well and that the collapse in foreign investor confidence was irrational, or even malicious. The political backlash could be severe.

The statistics underlying this crisis are as grim as those behind Japan's seven-year slump — with the difference that Japan is the world's biggest creditor and can to that extent choose whether or not to face facts, whereas South Korea's coffers are empty. They include serious trade and current account deficits; some spectacular bankruptcies affecting some of the most powerful Korean industrial conglomerates, the *chaebols*, with the certainty of more trouble in the pipeline; and serious over-supply in key industrial sectors.

Many leading banks are technically broke, with bad debt counting for between 100 and 400 per cent of the capital base of the top nine. The roots of the problem lie in South Korea's highy interventionist system.

Years of being told, formally or informally, by governments where to extend credit have made the country's financial institutions almost reckless of the bottom line: Confident that the state would always bail the *chaebols* out of trouble, they have piled up bad debt through imprudent and barely monitored lending.

That confidence has been reflected in a business culture that looks to the Government to sort out whatever troubles they encounter.

As elsewhere in Asia, some of that money has gone into office blocks that are unlettable; but more important than the bursting of the property bubble is the massive over-gearing by a handful of dominant corporations that have treated debt as a commodity, not something that has to be repaid.

For the past five years, foreign capital has fuelled an investment boom in which companies have expanded their core business and also branched out into new high-tech sectors.

The watchwords were expansion, market share and full order books; the question rarely asked was whether this massive expansion was yielding a return on investment. For this strategy to pay off, the merry-go-round had to keep going faster; but now the music has stopped.

South Korea's growth is likely to be 3 per cent next year, less than half the rate to which it is accustomed; and at that rate, the debts piled up cannot be paid.

These problems are compounded by a dramatic decline in South Korea's once formidable competitive edge. Labour laws and practices, that make the Britain of Arthur Scargill's prime seem a model of flexibility, are pricing its exports out of the market.

The militancy of the country's trade unions is a legacy of the long years of authoritarian rule. Since the country became a democracy, they have become formidable powers in the land; and because workers had a rough deal under dictatorship, they can muster strong public support when they assail any attempt to limit those powers as an assault on democracy.

The result has been wage explosion which, at 15 per cent a year for the past seven years, has far outstripped productivity gains and taken real industrial wages above those in Britain.

The near-impossibility of laying off workers, let alone firing them outright, means that many companies are in addition overstaffed by 10 per cent or more.

The Government had a stab at liberalising the labour market last winter, but when the unions took to the streets in violent protest, it deferred implementation of the critical reforms for two to five years.

The crunch could not have come at a worse time. Power in South Korea is concentrated in the President; the race to succeed Kim Young Sam, the profoundly unpopular incumbent, is wide open and whoever wins on December 18 will not take office until February 25. The system is thus paralysed just when some of the toughest decisions in the country's history are required, and in weeks rather than months.

To the north, both Seoul and Washington are acutely aware that the Pyongyang regime is so desperate that it has never been more unpredictable.

Yet unlike Japan, Koreans will probably bite whatever bullet they have to. This is Asia's most "can do" society and they have been here before.

In the oil shock of 1973, one of the advisers drafted to the President's emergency economic council that was created last week recalls, the country was so broke that the governor of the central bank personally flew to New York to borrow $200 million; "We were that low".

When Koreans are described as the Irish of Asia, it is because they have a limitless capacity to pick themselves up in a most cheer way in the full confidence that everything will look far better the next morning.

Like every Korean I have encountered during a week which in any other country would be counted catastrophic, my host on Wednesday seemed so unruffled that I prepared for another round of assurances that South Korea was immune from the South-East Asian disease, that the markets would very soon recognise the country's "sound economic fundamentals" and return to their senses, that South Korea was in for a tough couple of months but no, not more than that.

My host shared in that optimism. But he did not minimise the problems — above all, the problem of knowing where to begin on reform. "South Korea has been so successful, yes-yes, that it is not like the old days. It was easy to fix things before because we were a very little animal, a mouse, yes-yes. Little animals are easy to cure, to anaesthetise, to see what is wrong, to operate. But South Korea today is a small elephant. So that is not so easy. We are not even sure, yes-yes, how to lift it on to the operating table."

The answer is that the Government, this time, cannot do all the lifting. That is the first message that it has to get across. South Koreans will have to accept many things that they have reckoned unacceptable.

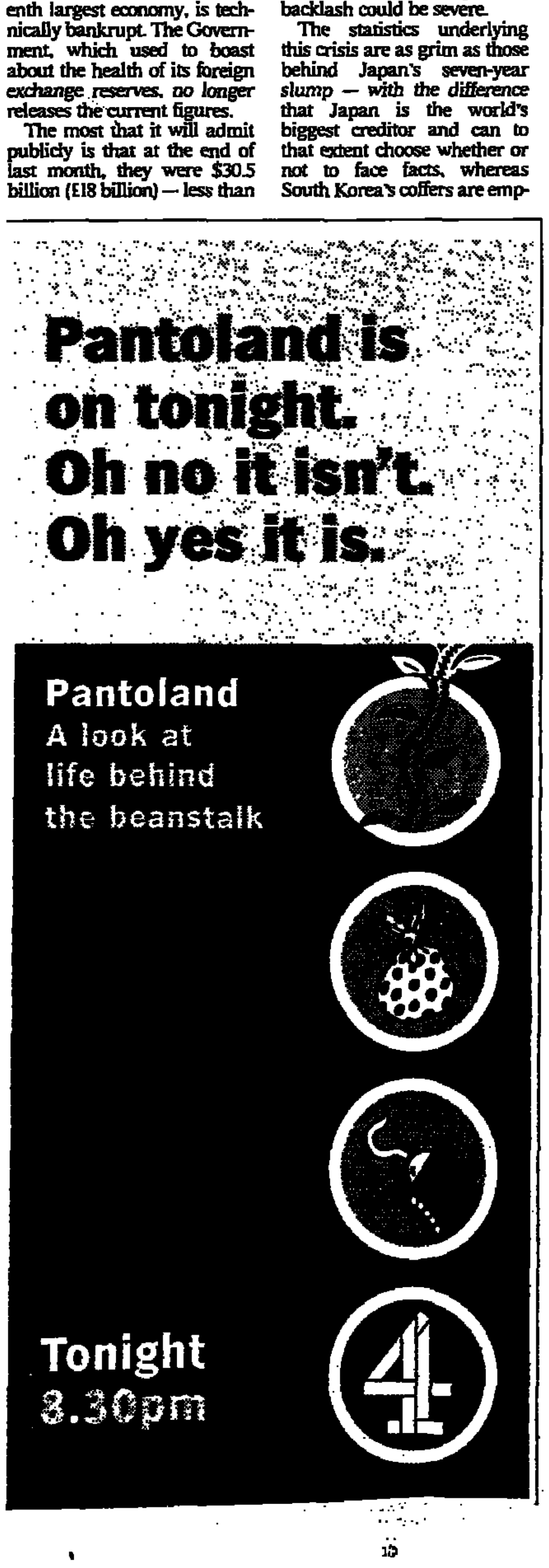
Even with an international rescue operation that could cost well over $60 billion, that will include mergers and some closures of bankrupt financial institutions and companies, with large-scale job losses, the opening of the still fiercely protected domestic market to investors and standards of disclosure that prevent future problems from building up undetected.

South Korea, a country without natural resources, is justifiably proud of the speed with which it has lifted itself out of grinding poverty. That pride sent it to the IMF far later than it should have gone, and the delay has given it a cold that will make the rest of the world sneeze.

The virus need not be life-threatening; this is a country with enough underlying industrial strength to pull through and a highly educated and motivated workforce. But tough times are ahead not only for South Korea, but for Asia and for the Western world whose corporate investors, from Bangkok to Seoul, have been so slow to perceive the cracks in the Asian rice-bowl of success.

The terms of the deal will have to be tough; but once they are agreed, self-interest alone should dictate a generous international response.

Tomas Balino, IMF delegation leader, arrives at Seoul's Kimpo airport yesterday for talks on a rescue package that could well top $60 billion; the political backlash may be severe



Pantoland is on tonight. Oh no it isn't. Oh yes it is.

Pantoland
A look at life behind the beanstalk

Tonight 8.30pm

TELEVISION CHOICE

The fun face of history

The History Hour
BBC2, 1.10pm

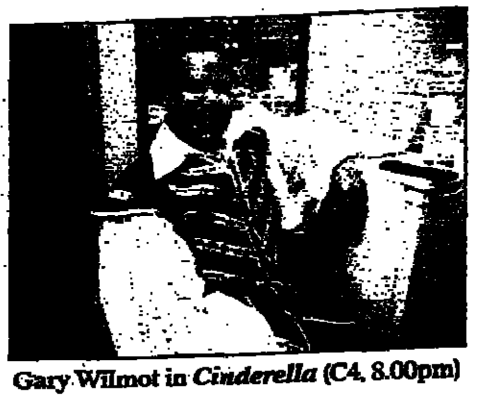
Adam Hart-Davis, minus his bike and coloured clothing but not his hearty enthusiasm, teams up with a new face, Jane Constantinis, to convince us that history is fun. Running Mondays to Fridays over the next three weeks, *The History Hour* is split between "classic" (that is, repeated) documentaries and tips on how to unearth local and family history. After a showing of the 1994 film by Richard Holmes (of *War Walks*) about preparations for the D-Day landings, we join Hart-Davis and Constantinis in Leeds. Hart-Davis's stroll down Briggate yields a rapid survey of 700 years of civic history which takes in the origin of Marks & Spencer and the claim, from Sir Jimmy Savile no less, that Leeds saw the invention of the disco. The revelation is typical of this chummy show.

Pantoland
Channel 4, 8.30pm

The imminence of the new pantomime season is the cue for a series which explores the business through one of its leading impresarios, Paul Elliott. He is staging no fewer than 18 pantos this Christmas, from Aberdeen to Southampton, and the cameras follow the gestation of three of them. Lionel Blair, John Inman and Britt Ekland star in *Snow White*, Gary Wilmot is strutting his stuff in *Cinderella* and Matthew Kelly is the lead in Elliott's biggest production, *Mother Goose* in Birmingham. Kelly describes Elliott as a man who loves panto, loves making money and a workaholic. He also has no time for performers who think they are bigger than the show. But he can turn on the charm, persuading a reluctant Danny La Rue that the best place for him at Christmas is Sheffield.

Movers and Shakers
Channel 4, 8.00pm

This entertaining little series continues to demonstrate that most innocuous games can arouse the most extraordinary passions. Even, and by no means least, dominoes. The film covers a needle match between teams from Bristol and Luton. All the players are of West Indian origin. Dominoes, it may be surprising to discover, is widely played in the Caribbean and immigrants to Britain have maintained the tradition. The Luton team, called The Young Guns, is led by the self-styled Professor Lara, a name derived from his knowledge of the game and admiration for the fast-scoring cricketer. The match demolishes any idea that dominoes is just a game of chance. Top players, such as the Professor, look several moves ahead and communicate moves to their partners through coded gestures. Play is fierce and noisy but unfailingly good-natured.



Gary Wilmot in *Cinderella* (C4, 8.00pm)

Equinox: When Pigs Ruled the World
Channel 4, 9.00pm

Thanks to *Jurassic Park* we are familiar with the dinosaur period but the Permian epoch, which preceded it by 50 million years, is much less well known. This informative documentary usefully fills the gap. The starting point is a footprint discovered by a farmer in the Karoo Desert of South Africa. This has led geologists to pursue evidence of the abundant animal life of 250 million years ago, including creatures evolving from reptile to mammal that can plausibly be described as our ancestors. This menagerie was all but destroyed in a mass extinction probably caused by a rapid heating of the Earth. The most notable survivor was a pig-like creature, the lystrosaurus. Talk of mass extinctions brings the film rapidly to the present and speculation that another may be on the way. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Postscript: Designs for Living
Radio 3, 9.35pm

Today marks the beginning of National Architecture Week so you may like to take up a pen and write to whoever designed that hideous block you pass every day on the way to the shops. Or you may prefer to listen to this new series, which is about the design of houses. I have only heard the first of the five programmes so I cannot guarantee we will discover why all shower cubicles are half as big as they need to be and nearly all kitchen sinks have the worst view in the house; but we do hear architects variously describe a house as "an inhabited sculpture" and, more encouragingly, "the ultimate test for an architect". Tonight starts with Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Hill House, the first hint of Modernism.

Sportstrack
Radio 5 Live, 7.30pm

This programme is back for a new series and, as before, it uses a format which some people will find infuriating. The programmes consist of extracts from sporting commentaries and interviews in a particular year, broken up with contemporary music from the time. But people with even a passing interest in sport will find that the format becomes mesmerising, its very disjointedness adding to the drama. And there are some splendid moments, as with this piece of cricket commentary: "There's a lot of pressure on young Warne's shoulders, he will know that his team is expecting him to come on and take some wickets. Shane Warne, off only two or three paces, he bowls and Gatting . . . is bowled!" **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley. Includes at **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Dave Pearce **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session **8.30** Live Music Update **8.40** Andy Kershaw **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Clive Warren **4.00** Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester **7.30** Wake-Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Humphrey Lyttelton **8.00** Malcolm Laycock with Big Band Era and Dance Band Days **9.00** Big Band Special **9.30** Hayes Over Britain **10.30** Richard Allinson [illegible] Steve Madden **3.00** John Terrett

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme with Peter Allen and Allan Robb **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.00pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** Nationwide with Julian Worricker **7.00** News Extra **7.30** Sportstrack. See Choice **8.00** The Monday Match. Simon Hill introduces commentary on Tottenham v Crystal Palace from White Hart Lane **10.00** News Talk **11.00** News Extra **12.00** After Hours **2.00am** Up All Night with Rhod Sharp **5.00** Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

5.00am Jeremy Clark **7.00** Chris Evans **10.00** (FM) Robin Banks (AM) Graham Dene **1.00pm** (FM) Nick Abbot (MW) Nicky Horne **4.00** Russ 'n' Jono **7.00** (FM) Paul Coyte (AM) Caimin Jones **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Richard Porter

TALK RADIO

6.30am Paul Ross and Carol McGiffen **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Anna Raeburn **9.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

6.00am Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** Off the Shelf: The Handmaid's Tale **7.30** The Vintage Chart Show **8.00** News **8.10** Pause for Thought **8.15** Pop on the Line **9.00** News; News in German (648 only) **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Major Killers **9.30** Westway Access **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Omnibus **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Jazzamatazz **12.00** News **12.05pm** World Business Report **12.15** *Britain Today* **12.30** *Seven Days* **12.45** *Sports Roundup* **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Options **3.00** World News; (648 only) News in German **3.05** Sports Roundup **3.15** Westway Access **3.30** The Ed Stewart Show **4.00** News **4.15** Seven Days **4.30** The World Today; (648 only) News in German **4.45** Britain Today **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Roundup **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** [illegible] Minute; News in German (648 only) **7.00** News **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Pause for Thought **7.30** Multitrack Hit List **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.05** World Business Report **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Heritage **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** The World Today **10.45** Sport **11.00** News **11.05** Outlook **11.30** Multitrack Hit List **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30am** Westway **12.45** Britain Today **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Seven Days **1.45** Poems by Post **2.00** Newsday **2.30** On Screen **3.00** News **3.05** Business **3.15** Sport **3.30** *What Do Christians Believe?* **4.00** *Newsdesk* **4.30** *Europe* Today **5.00** Newsday **5.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Alan Mann **9.00** Henry Kelly with The Classic Masterpiece and Record of the Week **1.00pm** Listener Request Hour with Jane Jones **2.00** Concerto. Grieg (Piano Concerto in A minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00**. Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. Bach (Sonata for Viola da Gamba in G minor) **8.00** Evening Concert. John Taverner (Western Wynde Mass); Plainchant (Introit) Taverner (Kyrie and Gloria); William Byrd (Gradual Motet); Plainchant (Sequence and Alleluia), Taverner (Credo); Plainchant (Offertory); Thomas Tallis (Offertory Motet); Taverner (Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei); Plainchant (Communion); Thomas Tallis (Communion motet); John Sheppard (Motet) **10.00** Michael Mappin **2.00am** Concerto (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Vivaldi (Concerto in B flat, La Caccia); Finzi (Clarinet Concerto); Sarasate (Fantasy on The Magic Flute); Debussy (Prélude a l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Rossini (Overture La Cenerentola); Wagner (Siegfried Idyll)
9.00 Morning Collection. Introduced by Peter Hobday. Includes Ravel (Alborada del Gracioso); *Liszt (Grand Studies after Paganini Nos 1-3);* Refice (Per amor di Gesu); Mozart (Piano Quartet in E flat)
10.00 Musical Encounters, with Mary Miller. Bernstein (On the Town, excerpts); Rubinstein (3 Caprices); Copland (Old American Songs, Set 1); Hakim (Hymne de l'Univers); Ives (Six songs); Warlock (String Serenade); Copland (Old American Songs, Set 2); *Beethoven (Cello Sonata in G Minor);* Bernstein (Lonely Town, On the Town)
12.00 Composer of the Week: Richard Massenet
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Pierre-Laurent Aimard, piano. Berg (Sonata); Schoenberg (Five Pieces); Webern (Variations); Schoenberg (Three Pieces)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Martyn Brabbins and Thierry Fischer. Liszt (Prometheus); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor); with Piers Lane, piano, Liszt (Mephisto Waltz No 1); Strauss (Don Juan); Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C)
4.00 Music Matters. Ivan Hewitt with the latest news *and views from the world of classical music (r)*
4.45 Music Machine. *Verity Sharp talks to John* Savage about the music scene that grew up in Liverpool in the 1950s and 1960s
5.00 In Tune. Perlman, Mozart, Ives and Terfel are amongst Sean Rafferty's music selection. Plus the studio guests is the soprano Vivian Tierney who makes her debut as Tatyana in the English National Opera's new production of *Eugene Onegin*
7.30 Performance on 3. As part of its tour of Japan and Korea, the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis, with John Lill, piano, performs Wagner (Prelude Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg); Schumann (Piano Concerto in A minor); Sibelius (Symphony No 2 in D)
9.35 Postscript: Designs for Living. See Choice (1/5)
10.00 Voices: Schubert Rarities. Iain Burnside presents unusual Schubert songs in duet form. Juliane Banse, soprano, Angelika Kirchschlager, mezzo, Christoph Pregardien, tenor, Olaf Bar, baritone, Josef Sterlinger and Markus Pierscher, horns, Wolfram Rieger piano. Schubert (Mailied; Der Morgenstern; Lutzows Wilde Jagd; Hymne an den Unendlichen; Shilric und Vinvela; *Cronnan;* Hektors Abschiec; Antigone und Oedip; Der Tanz)
10.45 Mixing It, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandell
11.30 Composer of the Week: Richard Strauss (r)
12.30am Jazz Notes. Digby Fairweather presents the Bryan Spring Trio in a two-part concert from Appleby 1997. Bryan Spring, drums, Mark Edwards, piano, and Mick Hutton, double bass
1.00 ***Through the Night*** *with Donald Macleod*

RADIO 4

5.55am (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today **8.45** Woman in the House. Shirley Williams *looks at life in Westminster from a female* perspective (4/5) **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, with the *Times* columnist Melvyn Bragg and guests
10.00 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) Dear Diary. Extracts from the diaries of Pat Givan, an English missionary in Sierra Leone in *the early 1960s (2/5)*
10.15 (LW) On This Day, with Geoffrey Wheeler
10.30 Woman's Hour. Introduced by Jenni Murray
11.30 Money Box Live, with Vincent Duggleby
12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whitaker
12.25pm Wildbrain. Lionel Kelleway presents the fifth regional heat of the wildlife quiz **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast
2.00 Hand in Glove: Fast and Loose. Stephen Mulrine's play set in Stirling in the 1920s (2/3) (r)
3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope at the Belfast Festival. Lynne Walker reports from the festival that includes the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, Robert Wilson's *Saints and Singing* and the Druid Theatre Company
4.45 Short Story: From the Slips. David Benedictus reads his new story about a cricketer who decides to abandon the game and change his life
5.00 PM, with Clare English and Nigel Wrench **5.50** Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. The comedy quiz finds itself in Newcastle (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Food Programme with Simon Parkes (r)
7.45 The Monday Play: The Paganini Dream, by Max Hillman. A young musician receives a visit from Paganini. With Freddie Jones, Maggie Steed, Peter Shorey and Sunny Ormonde
9.00 The Mineclearers. Brian Barron joins a British-led team of volunteers *risking their lives to clear* minefields in Cambodia (r)
9.30 Kaleidoscope at the Belfast Festival (r)
10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another Time, Another Place. Jessie Kesson's account of an Aberdeenshire farm which takes on foreign workers in 1944. Abridged by Brian McCabe, read by Vicki Masson (1/10)
11.00 (FM) At the Shoulder of History. John Miller talks to Alex Toumeyan, who, as America's French-speaking interpreter was involved in negotiating a range of crises(2/5) (r)
11.00 (LW) Education Matters, with David Walter
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 (FM) The Female Ghost: Afterward, by Edith Wharton, dramatised by Christopher Hawes. Ned and Mary move to a dream home in England but their past is catching up with them (3/3) (r)
12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Bright Lights, Big City. Jay McInerney's classic tale (6/9) (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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Success? Anything but a surprise, surprise

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

Michelle from Bournemouth, as pretty as her hair was long, pierced navel glinting in the studio lights, had got to question two. She was reading media studies (cue an *"ooh" from the audience, who like* a girl with brains) and was hoping to go into public relations. "If you could have any job in the media what would it be?"

The other side of the **Blind Date** (ITV, Saturday) screen, "the lads" gave it some thought. Lads one and three quickly got nowhere, answering Murray Walker and a Gladiator respectively. Lad two, Alex from London, did better with "the producer of *Blind Date*, so I could change the rules and get rid of the other two". As it turned out, he didn't need a change of rules. He and Michelle are now off to Delhi, which seems a long way to go for a curry but if that's what it says on the card — well, you don't argue.

But all three lads had missed the obvious answer. There she was, an encouraging hand on Michelle's shoulder, just as she has encouraged countless *Blind Date* contestants over the past 12 years. There she was, propping up Saturday night just as she has for very nearly 30 years. Miss Cilla Black is what "our Graham" calls her; "Singing Priscilla" or "Cyril" is what John Lennon used to call her. We just call her Cilla and can't remember a time without her.

Like Alison Moyet and, no doubt, millions of others, I grew up to *Anyone Who Had a Heart*. Now, however, there must be young people around, raised on *Blind Date* and *Surprise, Surprise*, who barely know she was *ever a singer, let alone who Alfie* was. What's it all about? **Brit Girls: Cilla** (Channel 4, Saturday) was about to remind us. There's always something.

Cilla's television career passed in almost subliminal after-thought at the end, with Paul McCartney ringing her up to say he'd written a special song for her new show. It was called *Step Inside*. That sort of thing, we had learnt by now, kept on happening to Cilla, as John Piper's film concentrated on her six-year singing career.

By now we knew how Lennon had dragged her on stage at the Cavern club to impress *Brian Epstein; how Lennon and* McCartney had written her first hit and how her association with Epstein led her first to George Martin and then to Burt Bacharach. What's it all about? Well, being a friend of the Beatles certainly helped.

But she also displayed the same single-minded determination that so many of her *Blind Date* contestants would, 30 years later. "I just wanted to be a star, I just wanted to be famous." And when she was, she loved it. Was she surprised when the follow-up to *Anyone Who Had a Heart* went to Number One too? "No."

There was also more than a pelmet of *Blind Date* about some *of the clothes she wore. Piper's film* ended with her television career beginning and with a strategically placed Lennon succeeding in doing what a desperate cameraman (his modern LWT counterparts will have sympathised) was trying to avoid — looking straight up her miniskirt. As her song finished, Lennon whispered what one presumes was approval. But Cilla wasn't saying. "I wouldn't even tell you what he said today, totally unrepeatable."

If it was anything along the lines of "You've shown me yours, so I'll show you mine", then Lennon would have felt thoroughly at home in last night's episode of **Tom Jones** *(BBC1). Equal portions* of full-frontal nudity all round — one flash per sex, with Max Beesley's Tom finally parted from his breeches and someone, who may or may not have been Lindsay Duncan, from her frock. Cleverly, Lady Bellaston kept her mask on, so *it could have been anyone*

But, despite all these "matters of a more shocking nature", as John Sessions's Henry Fielding described them, this is not a particularly sexy interpretation of the classic romp. This is partly because Metin Huseyin, the director, believes in cutting away when it is clear what is to follow and partly because Beesley has committed himself to portraying a sincere and serious Tom, who romps reluctantly and with a heavy heart. Not sure I believe in reluctant romps.

Unless, of course, you are a Komodo dragon, which, *thanks to yesterday's* **The Natural World** (BBC2), I now know only goes in for reluctant romps. Only if the larger male pins the female to the ground does she agree that a spot of tail-entwining might be in order. Just don't expect me to be nice to you in the *morning, OK?*

Male or female, the Komodo dragons do not believe in being nice. But they are first-class at being terrifyingly horrid. I half-expected the narrator to reassure us that the world's biggest and ugliest lizards are harmless vegetarians or eat plankton. But not a bit of it. The dragons are meat-eaters and not fussy about whether it is fresh or long-dead. They have saliva that can infect a wound at ten paces and the sort of breath you won't find outside a Pall Mall cocktail party. What else? Oh yes. A dozen or so times a century, they have a real result and eat a human being.

Rod Morris's film may have been a little short on biology, but he had footage that Steven Spielberg would have given a generous slice of *Jurassic Park* for: huge male lizards fighting over a mate, juvenile dragons who live up trees and adults who think nothing of swimming ten kilometres *to the* nearest island for a snack. Worth bearing in mind, perhaps, the next time you fancy a dip in the warm, blue waters of the Indonesian Ocean.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (97095)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (92453)

9.00 Good Living New series presented by Jane Asher (5382818)

9.25 Style Challenge (5394453)

9.50 **Kilroy** *(T) (7924845)*

10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6232647)

10.55 The Really Useful Show (T) (7689057)

11.35 Change That In Winchester (4867778)

12.00 News (T) (6079989)

12.05pm Call My Bluff (1115647)

12.35 Give Us A Clue Charades (2098786)

1.00 News (T) and weather (95540)

1.30 Regional News (84119298)

1.40 The Weather Show (59660163)

1.45 Neighbours (T) (44115231)

2.05 Quincy (r) (2782076)

2.55 Wogan's Best of Blankety Blank (7709569)

3.30 Playdays (8933521) **3.50** Enchanted Lands (1969908) **4.00** Roald Dahl's Revolting Recipes: Rhyme Stew (9729618) **4.15** Noah's Island (3713750) **4.40** Goosebumps (6052705) **5.00** Newsround (T) (5290144) **5.10** Blue Peter (T) (9141144)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (885569)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (347)

6.30 Regional News (927)

7.00 This Is Your Life (T) (9618)

7.30 Here and Now Horse whisperer Gary Witheford demonstrates his ability to heal or break horses in by listening and understanding the animals' psychology (T) (811)

8.00 EastEnders Bianca and Ricky see their baby, but receive shattering news; Grant realises there's more to fatherhood than meets the eye (T) (8366)

8.30 Spark Ashley tries to save face in the presence of Beth at a dinner party (T) (7873)

9.00 News *(T) and weather* (9453)

9.30 Hotel Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel is in the doldrums, with bookings down and an outbreak of food poisoning among the guests (T) (42873)

10.00 Panorama: Justice For Myra Hindley? Next month Myra Hindley applies to the High Court for a judicial review of her life sentence *(T)* (956989)

10.40 On Side John Inverdale interviews Peter O'Sullevan, Lester Piggott, England cricket coach David Lloyd. Plus: John Fashanu speaks out for the first time since being cleared of corruption charges (T) (758434)

11.30 Film '97 with Barry Norman Barry reviews *First World War drama Regeneration*, starring Jonathan Pryce; Joe Pesci in *Eight Heads in a Duffel Bag*; *One Night Stand* with Wesley Snipes and Nastassja Kinski; and Sigourney Weaver in *Alien Resurrection* (T) (52347)

FILM **12.00 Pancho Villa** (1972) Telly Savalas takes the title role of the folk hero whose revolutionary forces embarked on a reign of terror in Mexico in 1916. Directed by Eugenio Martin (3575816)

1.25am Weather (9464767)

1.30 BBC News 24

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Education: Rich Mathematical Activities (18076) **6.30** Putting Training to Work (63453)

7.00 See Hear Breakfast News (T and signing) (1981845)

7.15 Teletubbies (r) (4753328) **7.40** Perils of Penelope Pitstop (r) (2037569) **8.05** Blue Peter (r) (T) (2617366) **8.30** Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams. Last in series (r) (2630873) **8.45** Harry and the Hendersons (r) (T) (9303347)

9.10 Spanish Globo (1768298) **9.15** Clementine (4747386) **9.30** Writing and Pictures (T) (4295521) **9.45** Storytime (4290076) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (54705) **10.30** Words and Pictures (8645205) **10.45** Watch (9816160) **11.00** Look and Read: Spywatch (1329724) **11.20** Zig Zag (T) (3193786) **11.40** Landmarks (T) (1668255) **12.00** Urban Scotland (8569095) **12.20pm** Job Bank (6071347)

12.30 Working Lunch (60279) **1.00** The Greedysaurus Gang *(r) (95932038)* **1.05** Hairy Jeremy (39398649)

1.10 **The History Hour** Adam Hart-Davis tours historic Leeds (6133960)

2.10 Snooker: UK Championship Live fourth-round action (23041521)

6.00 The Simpsons Bart's petty squabble with Lisa ruins the family's Thanksgiving celebrations (T) (882328)

6.25 The O Zone (986618)

6.45 Snooker: UK Championship from Preston (638618)

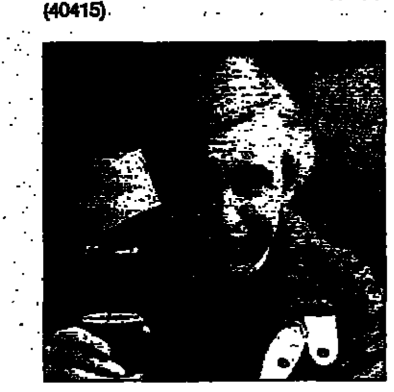
7.30 Making Masterpieces The last in series looks at how the National Gallery carries out repair and restoration work (T) (453)

8.00 Top Gear Rally Report The latest news from the RAC Rally as it enters the forests of Mid Wales (T) (6908)

8.30 Land of the Tiger: Sacred Waters The spectacular wildlife around India's River Ganges (T) (499637)

9.20 Trade Secrets Beauty therapists offer alternative tips for a perfect body (T) (345366)

9.30 Never Mind the Buzzcocks (r) (T) (40415)



Steve Coogan as Alan (10.00pm)

10.00 I'm Alan Partridge The failed television presenter is given an opportunity to create his own particular brand of mischief (34366)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (916521)

11.15 Snooker: UK Championship (258279)

11.55 Weather (704298)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (33651)

12.30am Learning Zone: The Making of Germaine Greer (9579670) **12.45** Great Civilisations: A Tale of Two Capitals — Paris and Rome (3375699) **1.35** Rome Under the Popes (8264564) **2.00** Schools: Newsfile (84106) **4.00** Languages: Greek and beginners French (44748) **5.00** Skills for Work (88922)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (4854908)

9.25 Supermarket Sweep (T) (5370873)

9.55 Regional News (6897502)

10.00 The Time, the Place (41231)

10.30 This Morning (48173347)

12.20pm Regional News (6068873)

12.30 News (T) and weather (2017811)

12.55 High Road (T) (2092502) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (25999665)

FILM **1.50 Maroc 7** (1967) with Gene Barry and Cyd Charisse. Crime drama in which a police investigator goes undercover to catch a fashion writer who moonlights as an international jewel smuggler. Directed by Gerry O'Hara (8372927)

3.20 News (T) (8745521)

3.25 Regional News (8744892)

3.30 Tots TV (3689540) **3.40** The Slow Norris (1958892) **3.50** Wolves, Witches and Giants (3647328) **4.05** Sooty and Co (T) (1018322) **4.25** Men in Black (T) (9018142) **4.50** How 2 (T) (6043057)

5.10 WALES: The House (r) (T) (9603095)

5.10 We Are Seven (9603095)

5.40 News (T) and weather (828347)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (802182)

6.25 Regional Weather (158908)

6.30 Regional News (845)

7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers with Phillip Schofield (4786)

Faye and Froggatt (7.30pm)

7.30 Coronation Street Judy (Gaynor Faye) receives an unwanted visitor, Zoe Tattersall *(Joanne Froggatt) (T) (279)*

8.00 World in Action The rise in the increasingly diseased rat population and the battle to rid Britain of the destructive pests as confusion in dealing with the problem rages (T) (3434)

8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (T) (2569)

9.00 **Gold** *Carol is forced to provide a home* for her white half-sister; and Rose crosses a dangerous gang of Leeds pimps (T) (8095)

10.00 News (T) and weather (21892)

10.30 Regional News and weather (307989)

10.40 WALES: Viva Jemima! (481250)

10.40 Nash Bridges Nash and Joe escort a key witness from prison to San Francisco to testify in an important case (T) (481250)

11.40 WALES: Nash Bridges (T) (324786)

11.40 Highlander (1/2) (324876)

12.40am Football Extra (5269941)

1.40 War of the Worlds (r) (8464941)

2.35 Rockmania *(r) (2975212)*

3.30 God's Gift (r) (3832090)

4.25 Recollections (40365699)

4.35 World in Action (r) (T) (93488748)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (85699)

5.30 News (38106)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (2092502)

1.50 Blue Heelers (5441328)

2.50-3.20 High Road (8433163)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9603095)

6.25-7.00 Central News (953279)

11.40 Charlie Grace (608250)

12.35am Football Extra (5260670)

1.35 Late and Loud (9302038)

2.35 Curtis Calls (6246632)

2.40 Film: Wall of Death (346564)

4.20 Central Jobfinder '97 (67706293)

4.50 Eastern Mix (93483293)

5.20 Asian Eye (9045816)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6068873)

12.55 *Home and Away* (2092502)

1.25 High Road (79195434)

1.55 Murder, She Wrote (5459347)

2.50-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (8433163)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9603095)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (65724)

10.30 Westcountry News (321569)

10.45 **Nash Bridges** (407298)

11.40 New York News (324786)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (2092502)

1.50 Countdown to Christmas (5686298)

2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2771960)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9603095)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (415)

6.30-7.00 Perfectly Pets (845)

10.30 Meridian News and Weather (321569)

10.45 Nash Bridges (407298)

11.40 The Golf Show (735908)

12.10am Meridian Motorsport (1880903)

5.00 Freescreen (85699)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:

12.55-1.25 What's My Line? (2092502)

1.55 Homemaker (97520960)

2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (2771960)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9603095)

6.23 Anglia Weather (159637)

6.25-7.00 Anglia News (953279)

10.30 Anglia News and Weather (321569)

10.45 Is That It? (344279)

11.15 Nash Bridges (711163)

12.10am Fair Cops (1880903)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (85163) **9.00 Ysgolion** (339250) **11.30 The Pulse** (9188) **12.00 Right to Reply** (28705) **12.30pm Montel Williams** *(55347)* **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (18660714) **1.15 Miffi** (13610219) **1.30 The Crimean War** (53892) **2.30 Raging Planet** (28786) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (873) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (908) **4.30 Coltrane's Planes and Automobiles** (892) **5.00 5 Pump** (8644637) **5.15 Ffeil** (5202989) **5.30 Countdown** (144) **6.00 Newyddion** (248960) **6.10 Heno** (411618) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (549521) **7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar** *(385778)* *8.00* **Rhyw Fath O Fusnes** (1076) **8.30 Newyddion** (3811) **9.00 Cutting Edge** (6637) **10.00 Sgorio** (9724) **11.00 The Real Holiday Show** (257540) **11.35 The American Football Big Match** (423231) **12.50am-1.50 Arthouse** (5259564)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (80705)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (85163)

9.00 Schools: The English Programme (T) (5375328) **9.25** Schools at Work (1749521) **9.30** Geography Junction (T) (4297989) **9.45** Book Box (T) (4285144) **10.00** Stage Two Science (T) (8111219) **10.15** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (5066340) **10.30** Place and People (T) (2114989) **10.50** Stop, Look, Listen (T) (8359453) **11.00** Living and Growing (T) (3117366) **11.15** The Mix (T) (3107989)

11.30 The Pulse (r) (T) (9188) **12.00** Sesame Street (28705) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (52163) **1.30** Gardens without Borders (T) (84186960)

FILM **1.45 I Believe In You** (1952, b/w) with Cecil Parker, Joan Collins and Harry Fowler. An Ealing drama about a former colonial civil servant who becomes a probation officer. Directed by Basil Dearden (74529892)

3.30 Collectors' Lot featuring pigeon racing memorabilia and a collection of skateboards (T) (873) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (908) **4.30** Countdown (T) (1543960) **4.55** Montel Williams (T) (9390415) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (144)

6.00 Home Improvement American comedy series (2/2) (T) (647)

6.30 Hollyoaks Jude test-drives an expensive car; Carol hears from the record company (T) (637)

7.00 Channel 4 News (T)(440540)

7.50 Get Sorted The first of four programmes looking at everyday jobs. Beginning with rustproofing the car (551304)

8.00 **Movers and Shakers: Dominoes** Series on indoor games and the people who play them. Focusing on a team of exuberant players known as the Young Guns put together by enthusiast Trevor Sinclair (T) (3/6) (1076)

8.30 **Pantoland: The Biz** A series on the stresses and pains behind the pantomime industry. The E and B theatrical company led by Paul Elliott prepares to stage around 20 pantomines (1/4) (3811)

Survivor from the past (9.00pm)

9.00 **Equinox: When Pigs Ruled the World** Life on Earth 250 million years ago (T) (6637)

10.00 Cracker: The Mad Woman in the Attic The concluding part of the drama starring Robbie Coltrane (r) (T) (2480637)

11.05 Armstrong and Miller Comedy starring Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller (3/7) (T) (754873)

11.35 The American Football Big Match (423231)

12.50am Trans World Sport (r) (5259564)

1.50 Football Italia (r) (17531496)

4.00 Schools: Geography Junction (T) (4001729) **5.15** Schools at Work (8612380)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE

Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. *Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture:* 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz

6.00am 5 News Early (2329989)

7.30 Milkshake! (4075231) **7.35** Stickin' Around (6476182) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) (4491647)

8.30 **WideWorld** *Documentary series about* computers looking at the information superhighway and virtual reality (5841188)

9.00 Espresso (2364434) **10.00** Exclusive (r) (8461786) **10.30** Pole Stars: Land of the Loon (r) (T) (5946732)

11.00 Leeza (7019540) **11.50** Double Espresso *(94293540)* *12.00 The Bold and the* Beautiful (T) (1241124) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (8206873)

1.00 5 News Update (83405429) **1.05** Sunset Beach (T) (3095347) **2.00** 5's Company (8063415)

FILM **3.30 The Awful Truth** (1937, b/w) Romantic comedy with Cary Grant and Irene Dunn, directed by Leo McCarey (8270057)

5.20 5's Company — Late Extra (13458434)

5.30 Whittle (T) (3450095)

6.00 100 Per Cent (3457908)

6.30 Family Affairs Duncan inadvertently lets slip to Chris that Holly is gay (T) (3431960)

7.00 Exclusive with the guest presenter Sarah Cox (5039434)

7.30 Dwellers of the Deep: Before the Oil The wildlife that inhabited the Prince William Sound, Alaska, before the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill in 1989 (T) (3437144)

8.00 Period Rooms This week's challenge is to recreate an authentic Regency dining room (T) (5048182)

8.30 5 News (T) (5034989)

9.00 The Sweeney Classic Flying Squad drama series starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman (9430182)

Lee, Tavaré and Eclair (10.00pm)

10.00 **The Comedy Network** *presented by* Boothby Graffoe with Jenny Eclair, Stewart Lee and Jim Tavaré (2864193)

10.30 Tibs and Fibs Lighthearted medical quiz (4596291)

11.00 The Jack Docherty Show Comedy and chat (4068989)

11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8865908)

12.45am **Live and Dangerous** Sports magazine (51919980)

3.45 Asian Football Show (8177800)

4.35 The Streets of San Francisco Police drama series (7199309)

5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (2352699)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's ***Vision***

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (720873) **9.00** Hotel (67366) **10.00** Another World (26434) **11.00** *Days of Our Lives (48298)* **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (89328) **1.00pm** Geraldo (98076) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (75386) **3.00** Jenny Jones (98502) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (17637) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (6183) **6.00** Live 6 Show (2453) **6.30** Married...with Children (3705) **7.00** The Simpsons (7892) **7.30** Real TV (9989) **8.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (37989) **9.00** Poltergeist: The Legacy (40453) **10.00** Sliders (43540) ***11.00*** *Star Trek: Voyager (27163)* **12.00** Late Show (86729) **1.00am** In the Heat of the Night (72212) **2.00** Long Play (5102361)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Guarding Tess (1995) (81182) **8.00 A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes** (1995) (74255144) **9.45 Heart of a Champion** (1985) (25856076) **11.30 Kaleidoscope (1966)** (87100724) **1.15pm A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes** (1995) (88678540) **3.00 Heart of a Champion (1985)** (26279) **5.00 A Promise to Carolyn (1996)** (85347) **6.30 Last of the Dogmen (1995)** (96786) **9.05 Up Close and Personal (1996)** (20557786) **11.15 Terminal Voyage (1994)** (399521) **12.55am Losing Isaiah (1995)** (419477) **2.45 Moving Violations (1985)** (808979) **4.15 Guarding Tess (1995)** (848835)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.10am Blockade (1938) (82130144) **8.00 Jazz: The Movie (1986)** (84960) **10.00 Station West (1948)** (38809) **12.00 To Be or Not to Be (1942)** (25861) **2.00pm Mayday at 40,000 Feet (1976)** (32434) **4.00 Time Warrior: Planet of the Dino-Knights (1995)** (9637) **6.00 Nowhere to** ***Hide (1996)*** *(42057)* **8.00 Hijacked: Flight 285 (1996)** (24415) **10.00 The Demolitionist (1996)** (413540) **11.35 Hell (1994)** (553892) **1.30am Midnight Heat (1995)** (858870) **3.10 Addicted to Love (1995)** (205803) **4.45 Aladdin and His Magic Lamp (1995)** (2857212)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Alexander's Ragtime Band (1938) (1876521) ***6.00 Sinbad and the*** **Eye of the Tiger** (1977) (2350960) **8.00 Eight Men Out** (1989) (2362705) **10.00 The Guns of Navarone** (1961) (31335908) **12.35am Colours** (1988) (8752293) **2.35 Red Firecracker, Green Firecracker** (1995) (7805361) **4.30 I Married a Witch** (1942) (41859125)

TNT

9.00pm Viva Las Vegas (1964) (89114076) ***11.00 Meet Me In Las Vegas*** (1956) (84129724) **1.00am That's Entertainment!** (1974) (25903854) **3.15 Viva Las Vegas** (1964) (21845106) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Spanish Football (52873) **9.00** Racing News (90569) **9.30** Aerobics (98231) **10.00** Football Special (13231) **11.30** Motorsport (32960) **12.00** Aerobics (70705) **12.30pm** BT/RYA Match Racing Final (72273) **1.30** Football Special (63960) **3.00** Basketball: London v Sheffield (46057) **5.00** BT/RYA Match Racing Final (4947) **6.00** Sports Centre (4827) **6.30** Football League Review (1989) **7.00** Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace — Live (2868714) **10.30** Sports Centre (80182) **11.00** BT/RYA Match Racing Final (72637) **12.00** Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace (48835) **2.00am** Sports Centre (31960) **2.30** Football League Review (92187) **3.00** Sports Centre (58670) **3.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

9.30am Racing News (6833601) **10.00** World Sports Special (4012960) **10.30** Windsurfing (8760389) **11.00** Sports Unlimited (7464142) **12.00** League Review (9083322) ***1.00pm*** *World Sports Special* (9369778) **1.30** World Cup of Golf (2630705) **3.30** League Review (9557569) **6.00** Windsurfing (9547182) **6.30** V-Max (9538434) **7.00** Sports Centre (2207163) **7.30** World Motor Sport (2951279) **10.30** V-Max (8781095) **11.00** League Review (7201182) **11.30** Motor Sport (5095273) **12.30am** Windsurfing (3323309) **1.00** Sports Centre (8560800) **1.30** Motor Sport *(8845390) 2.00 Close*

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (57958724) **2.00** NFL (34542415) **5.30** Moto (55710637) **6.00** Formula Three — Macau Grand Prix (82584988) **7.00** Fish TV (89137927) **8.00** Cricket: Australia v New Zealand (89117163) **10.00** Big League Classics (15864328) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Sailing (60692) **8.00** Showjumping (23521) **9.00** X-Games (62368) **10.00** NASCAR (68076) **11.00** Skiing: Women's World Cup (79540) **12.00** Cross-Country Skiing (93750) **1.00pm** Triathlon (20298) **2.00** World White Water Rafting Championships (42906) **3.00** X-Games (38144) **4.00** Cross-Country Skiing (57279) **5.00** Speedworld (9415) **6.00** ATP Senior Tour of Champions — Live (99988) **7.30** Sumo (68786) **8.30** X-Games (42637) **9.30** Fun Sports (12279) **10.00** Eurogoals (62304) **11.30** X-Games (55705) **12.30am** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Worzel Gummidge (4646845) **7.35** Neighbours (8030298) **8.00** Crossroads (3905788) **8.25** EastEnders (1292163) **9.00** The Bill (8735250) **9.30** Howards' Way (9772908) **10.00** Bless This House (8097366) **10.30** Sullivans (8731434) **11.00** Kinsey (4934540) **12.00** Crossroads (14513368) **12.25** Neighbours (14516453) **12.55** EastEnders (1968163) **1.30** Hi-De-Hi (3148298) **2.10** Open All Hours (7638250) **2.50** Last of the Summer Wine (2344873) **3.30** The Bill (7856786) **4.00** Juliet Bravo (78801231) **5.05** EastEnders (6427960) **5.40** Full House (7085182) **6.25** That's Showbusiness (6099786) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (4946279) **7.45** Rosie (8313778) *8.20* Open All Hours (1520250) **9.00** The Bill (1442415) **9.30** Nice Work (89248786) **10.40** Yes, Minister (7405273) **11.20** New Statesman (4296873) **11.55** Between the Lines (3474637) **12.50am** Spitting Image (2014699) **1.20** Miami Vice (2780477) **2.10** Shopping (22663936)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Box (6861142) **7.00** Coronation St (8090989) **7.30** Families (8002724) **8.00** Blind Date (9017366) **9.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3791231) **10.00** The Professionals (8008908) **11.00** Hart to Hart (8088144) **12.00** Coronation St (6664750) **12.30pm** Families (2537569) **1.00** Blind Date (2525724) **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs (3191724) **3.00** Donahue (9357960) **4.00** The Professionals (9376095) **5.00** Hawaii Five-O (1274453) **6.00** Families (2316095) **6.30** Coronation St (2308347) **7.00** Blind Date (7970144) **8.00** Hart to Hart (7988882) **9.00** Coronation St (9372279) **9.30** Hale and Pace (2517705) **10.00** Hawaii Five-O (7979415) **11.00** Close

CARLTON SELECT (cable)

5.00pm Gridlock (80425347) **5.30** Hey Dad II (55725588) **6.00** Blockbusters (55715182) **6.30** A Country Practice (55704434) **7.00** My Two Wives (30439811) **7.30** Pull the Other One (55702618) **8.00** Birds of a Feather (30415231) **8.30** London Bridge (30434366) **9.00** Chancer (89108415) **10.00** Soldier, Soldier (89101502) **11.00** St Elsewhere (84176724) **12.00** Pull the Other One (15648380) **12.30am** Tales of the Unexpected (34309941) **1.00** Close

Action in *The Guns of Navarone* (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Dumbo's Circus **6.30** Umbrella Tree **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Quack Pack **8.00** Dinosaurs **8.30** Bonkers **9.00** Gummi Bears **9.30** Groundling Marsh **9.55** Small Stones **10.00** Sesame St **11.00** Winnie the Pooh **11.15** Rosie and Jim **11.35** Sing Me a Story with Belle **12.00** Tots TV **12.20pm** Disney Shorts **12.25** Big Garage **12.45** Winnie the Pooh **1.00** Sesame St **2.00** Madison **2.30** Gummi Bears **3.00** Tale Spin **3.30** Goof Troop **4.00** Timon and Pumbaa **4.30** Aladdin: The Series **5.00** Gargoyles **5.30** Dinosaurs **6.00** Blossom **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00** Home Improvement **7.30** Wonder Years **8.00** FILM: Whiskers **9.30** Dave's World

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Dafy **6.30** Billy the Cat **7.00** Pinocchio **7.30** Power Rangers Zeo **8.00** Beetleborgs **8.30** Masked Rider **9.00** Magic Box **9.30** Dudley the Dragon **10.00** Inspector Gadget **10.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **11.00** Sweet Valley High **12.00** Ace Ventura **12.30pm** Casper **1.00** The Tick **1.30** Iron Man **2.00** Fantastic Four **2.30** Power Rangers Zeo **3.00** Beetleborgs **3.30** Masked Rider **4.00** Ace Ventura **4.30** *Casper 5.00 The Tick 5.30 X Men 6.00* Spiderman **6.30** Sweet Valley High

TCC

6.00am Happily Ever After **6.30** Bobby's World **7.00** Spirou **7.30** Dennis the Menace **8.00** Batman **8.30** Bots Master **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Earthworm Jim **10.00** Gravedale High **10.30** Flash Gordon **11.00** Iznogoud **11.30** Gigantor **12.00** Gravedale High **12.30pm** Bots Master **1.00** Batman **1.30** Eek **2.00** Spirou **2.30** Flash Gordon **3.00** Sonic **3.30** Earthworm Jim **4.00** Dennis the Menace **4.30** Art Attack **5.00** Close

CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am to 9.00pm, seven days a week.**

NICKELODEON

6.00am Killer Tomatoes **6.30** Aaahh! Real Monsters **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** Doug **8.30** Neverending Story **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** Magic School Bus **11.30** Bananas in Pyjamas **12.00** Paddington Bear etc **12.30pm** Little Red Tractor etc **1.00** Dr Seuss **1.30** Little Bear Stories **2.00** Animal Show **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Rocko/Doug **4.00** Angry Beavers **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister *Sister 5.30 Kenan and Kel 6.00 Sabrina the* Teenage Witch **6.30** Moesha **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

12.00pm Swan's Crossing **12.30** Ready or Not **1.00** Madison **1.30** California Dreams **2.00** Saved by the Bell **2.30** Swan's Crossing **3.00** No Naked Flames **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Saved by the Bell **4.30** USA High **5.00** Hangtime **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** *On the Make* **6.15** Teenage Urban Adventurers **6.30** Madison **7.00** Hangtime **7.30** USA High **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Cross Wits **5.30** Say the Word **6.00** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** The $64,000 Question **8.00** Split Second **8.30** Move on Up **9.15** Winner Takes All **10.00** Treasure Hunt **11.15** Whittle **12.00** Say the Word **12.30am** Hart to Hart **1.30** The Big Valley **2.30** Big Brother Jake **3.00** Boogies Diner **3.30** Where I Live **4.00** Jeux Sans Frontieres **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

9.00pm The A-Team (6172873) **9.00** Tour of Duty (6192637) **10.00** Red Shoe Diaries (9578298) **10.45 FILM: First Blood** (1982) *(44433873) 12.35am Leslie Nielsen's Unbalanced World* — Short (8462390) **12.45** Tour of Duty (3381318) **1.45** Red Shoe Diaries (4664354) **2.30 FILM: First Blood** (1982) (4703564) **4.30** The Head (6909903) **5.00** The A-Team (6002309)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Grace Under Fire (3618) **7.30** *Roseanne (8415)* **8.00** *Ellen (2368)* **8.30** Cybill (1873) **9.00** Cheers (231958) **9.25** Doppelganger (762144) **9.30** Taxi (18453) **10.00** Frasier (79076) **10.30** The Kenny Everett Show (88724) **11.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner (490809) **11.25** Doppelganger (900250) **11.30** Ellen (43637) **12.00** Roseanne (26309) **12.30am** Nightstand (70832) **1.00** Soap (43748) **1.30** Taxi (82126) **2.00** Still in Bed with MeDinner *(6599019)* **2.45** Grace Under Fire *(8909584)* **3.00** Frasier (56212) **3.30** The Kenny Everett Show (14309) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Sightings (4251163) **9.00** Sightings (4271927) **10.00** Space Precinct (4241786) **11.00** Friday the 13th (2564163) **12.00** Sightings (6317105) **1.00am** The Twilight Zone (6309816) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (8823336) **2.00** Dark Shadows *(1790748)* **2.30** *New Alfred Hitchcock* (1702583) **3.00** Friday the 13th (7414187) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am The Joy of Painting (8733892) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (9763250) **10.00** The Great Gardening Plot (6095908) **10.30** New Yankee Workshop (8739076) **11.00** Rex Hunt Specials (1453521) **11.30** Hometime *(1454250)* **12.00** *Wheel Nuts (8720328)* **12.30pm** This Old House (9774366) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (4943298) **1.30** Doing It Up (9773637) **2.00** The Furniture Guys (6810705) **2.30** Room for Improvement (7674811) **3.00** Two's Country (6822540) **3.30** Home Again (7653328) **4.00** Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Diceman (7665163) **4.30** Roadshow (7661347) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (6901057) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (7685927) **6.00** Wild Discovery: Orang-utans — High Society (9759057) **7.00** Discovery News (6914521) **7.30** Disaster (7662076) **8.00** Untamed Amazonia (6185347) **9.00** Endeavour: Barefoot Cruise (6198811) **10.00** Discovery Signature: Mystery of the Ghost Galleon (6108298) **11.00** Aviation Weeks: Fighters (4920347) **12.00** Flightline (3518477) **12.30am** Roadshow (5274851) **1.00** Disaster (6924212) **1.30** Discovery News (2612564) **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Wild Italy: Forest of the Deer (7071368) **7.30** Out of the Stone Age (5735144) **8.00** Side by Side, the Hunter and the Hunted (3341892) **9.00** The Treasure of San Diego (3338328) **10.00** South Georgia: Legacy of Lust (3331415) **11.00** The Big Five of Africa (4984347) **12.00** Wild Italy: Forest of the Deer (3109293) **12.30am** Out of the Stone Age (7773534) **1.00** Close

TRAVEL (cable)

12.00pm Travel Live **1.00** Wet and Wild *1.30 Railway Adventures Across Europe* **2.00** Reel World **2.30** A River Somewhere **3.00** Holiday International **4.00** Cities of the World **4.30** Greg's World **5.00** Aspects of Life **5.30** Ocean World of John Stoneman **6.00** Sports Safaris **6.30** Wet and Wild **7.00** Travel Live **8.00** On the Horizon **8.30** Pathfinders **9.00** An Aerial Tour of Britain **10.00** A River Somewhere **10.30** Snow Safari **11.00** Chilcott's Sevens **12.00** Close

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Weapons at War (7200453) **5.00** The Great Ships (2206434) **6.00** Ancient Mysteries (3683386) **7.00** Biography: Rita Hayworth (2196811) **8.00** Close

CARLTON FOOD (cable)

12.00pm Food Network Daily **12.30** Antony's Scotland **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** For Better, for Worse **2.00** Frances Bissell's West Country Kitchen **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Graham Kerr's Kitchen **4.00** Can't Stand the Heat **4.30** Planet Nosh **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** I Dream of Jeannie **9.30** The Gordon Elliott Show **10.10** Jerry Springer **11.00** The Young and the Restless **11.50** Brookside **12.20pm** Why Me? **1.00** Tempest **1.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **2.30** Cheap Chic **3.00** Live at Three **4.05** Jerry Springer **5.00** Rolonda **5.50** Lucky Ladders **6.20** Ready, Steady, Cook **7.00** Hearts Afire **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00** Halifax fp **11.00** The Sex Files II **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** Ru Ba Ru **8.00** ZEE Business Show **8.30** Rashat **9.00** Hindi FILM: Ek Phool Char Kaante **11.30** Margarita **12.00** Parampara **12.30pm** Rashat **1.00** Hindi FILM: Ginny Aur Johnny, Mehmood, Ginny **3.30** Ek Nazar **4.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **4.30** Udan Choo **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Mast Mast Show **6.00** Hum Paanch **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Your Zindagi **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News and Euronews **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Monday Mystery **10.00** Out and About **11.00** Intequam **11.30** Antakshari **12.00** Close **4.00am Tamil FILM: Shengotai, Arjun, Madhubala**

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PROFILE 47
Our verdict on Smiths industries

BUSINESS

BROWN DAY 48
Roger Bootle on the view from No 11

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 24 1997

Brown to stifle hope of extra spending in Budget report

By Alasdair Murray
Economics Correspondent

GORDON BROWN will warn ministers in tomorrow's pre-Budget report that there will be no let-up in restraint on public spending even though the Government's debt problems are fast disappearing. The Chancellor is concerned that, with the Government on course to beat the current Treasury forecast for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) this year, spending departments will start clamouring for extra money.

However, in a paper prepared as part of the pre-Budget report, the Treasury has set out its view that the Government must try to surpass its borrowing targets in order to avoid the financial problems that have hit previous administrations.

The Treasury believes that if the current state of public finances are taken at face value, there is a risk of repeating the errors of the Lawson years in the late 1980s, when a seemingly healthy fiscal position was used as an excuse to cut taxes, only for the public finances to deteriorate rapidly as the recession took hold.

Mr Brown will instead commit himself always to "err on the side of caution" in managing the PSBR and not to change the Government's debt targets over the course of an economic cycle. To help to achieve this, the Treasury will in future publish two adjusted measures of the PSBR, which will let the Chancellor assess the underlying state of public finances. This tough line on public finances will please the City and should ultimately ensure that the Government is rewarded with a fall in the long-term cost of borrowing. The City expects Mr Brown to cut the full-year PSBR by about £3 billion from its current £10.9 billion target, but is concerned about the outlook for public finances as the economy slows next year.

The Treasury position will be backed by two other initiatives in the pre-Budget report. Mr Brown is expected to announce plans for the first fiscal responsibility code, which will lay down government reporting requirements on the state of public finances. He is also likely to restate the Government's two fiscal rules: the "golden rule" that it will borrow only to invest over the economic cycle and the rule that public debt should be held at a prudent proportion of national income.

A Treasury paper, *Fiscal Policy: lessons from the last economic cycle*, gives warning of parallels between now and 1986, when the economy's strength helped government finances to go into surplus and the Treasury forecast surpluses for the foreseeable future. The Conservatives used the forecasts to make big tax cuts, but the recession made the deficit worsen, and exceed 7 per cent of GDP in 1993-94.

Leading article, page 23
Roger Bootle, page 48

Barclays seek new casino licence at Ritz

Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

London Clubs International currently runs the Ritz Club but plans to seek a new venue in the vicinity when the licence expires in the new year

DAVID and Frederick Barclay, the reclusive twins whose interests range from hotels to newspapers, will today apply for a casino licence in the name of Aidan, David's son, for the Ritz Hotel, their London flagship.

If the Barclays, based in Monte Carlo, succeed, it will be only the second new licence awarded in London in nearly 20 years and the first for a new entrant to the business. They are supported by such prominent figures as Lord King of Wartnaby, Lord Hanson and George Carman, QC.

London Clubs International currently runs the Ritz Club in the Ritz Hotel, but the licence runs out in the new year and London Clubs plans to take the franchise to a nearby venue in Central London. The closeness of this casino may work against the Barclays.

They have hired Mr Carman to put their case to magistrates that a new casino licence should be awarded in David's son's name for what will be the vacated basement of the Ritz Hotel.

The licensing authorities will want to convince themselves that the Barclays, who are so secretive that they have bought up the rights to photographs of themselves to prevent the pictures from being reproduced, are men of probity. The Gaming Board rescinded a number of licences in the 1970s, including those for clubs run by Ladbroke and Playboy. Ladbroke has returned to the London scene, buying four casinos and winning the first new licence for two decades when its application for a site in Tottenham Court Road was accepted in August. The Gaming Board is opposing the Barclays' application.

In his evidence supporting the Barclays, Lord Hanson will say the Barclays are fit and proper people to hold a casino licence. In addition, Lord King, the president of British Airways, will argue that a casino licence in the Ritz Hotel is part of the process of ensuring that London remains a world-class tourist destination.

Retaining a casino in the Ritz Hotel is seen as a key part of the Barclays' plans to develop the hotel, including the creation of an American bar.

Recently a lot of the Barclays' efforts have gone into developing their newspaper interests. Apart from increasing the circulation of *The Scotsman* and *Scotland on Sunday*, their weekly, *The European*, is moving to magazine format and a Monday publication date on January 19. *Sunday Business*, their latest purchase, is due to be relaunched, also in January, with an expensively assembled stable of journalists led by Jeff Randall, a former sports and City editor of *The Sunday Times*.

Liberty chairman unsure of survival

DENIS CASSIDY, chairman of Liberty, yesterday admitted that he could lose control of the troubled retail group next month (Chris Ayres writes).

He said: "I'm not certain I can stand up to the threat. You can't say you're confident of the outcome when the opposition has 47 per cent of shares. It's up to the shareholders and I hope it's decided by those without a private agenda." The Stewart-Liberty family, who founded the company, has joined other rebel shareholders to call for a meeting on December 11, when they will attack Mr Cassidy's plans to spend £43 million on Liberty's flagship store in London and his decision to put the company up for sale.

They will attempt to appoint Odile Griffith and Brian Myerson to the board.

Yamaichi crisis may cost 300 UK jobs

By Adam Jones

MORE than 300 London employees of Yamaichi, the fourth-biggest securities house in Japan, will learn their fate this morning. The broker is poised to shut down after an emergency board meeting held last night.

Yamaichi's management, struggling under liabilities thought to be greater than 200 billion yen (£940 million), admitted on Saturday that a shutdown was being considered. It would be the biggest business failure in post-war Japan. Yamaichi is celebrating its centenary year.

The Japanese markets will be closed today for a national holiday. Most other stock markets around the world are likely to fall, said Roger Bootle, chief economist of HSBC, the banking and financial services group. He added that the Japanese banking crisis was already factored into share prices, so the drop should not be catastrophic.

He said: "I would have thought something like this would have been substantially discounted."

Japanese bond futures traded in London are particularly likely to be affected, traders said at the weekend. On Friday, Wall Street rallied late in the day despite clear indications in the afternoon that Yamaichi was poised to cease trading. The yen also rebounded from initial falls to close at 126.3 to the dollar.

Yamaichi's main office outside Japan is in London. About 260 London securities staff employed by Yamaichi International (Europe) will discover their fate at a meeting this morning. Another 50 work for Yamaichi Bank, a profitable wholesale and commercial bank, in London. The bank is thought to be less threatened than the troubled securities operation.

Yamaichi's other outposts include New York, Frankfurt, Paris and Amsterdam. It has already closed an office in Milan, as well as smaller representative offices in Madrid and Berlin. The Japanese Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan were hoping last night to announce a stabilisation plan to secure financial systems inside and outside Japan before Asian markets opened. The Bank of England said it was watching events closely.

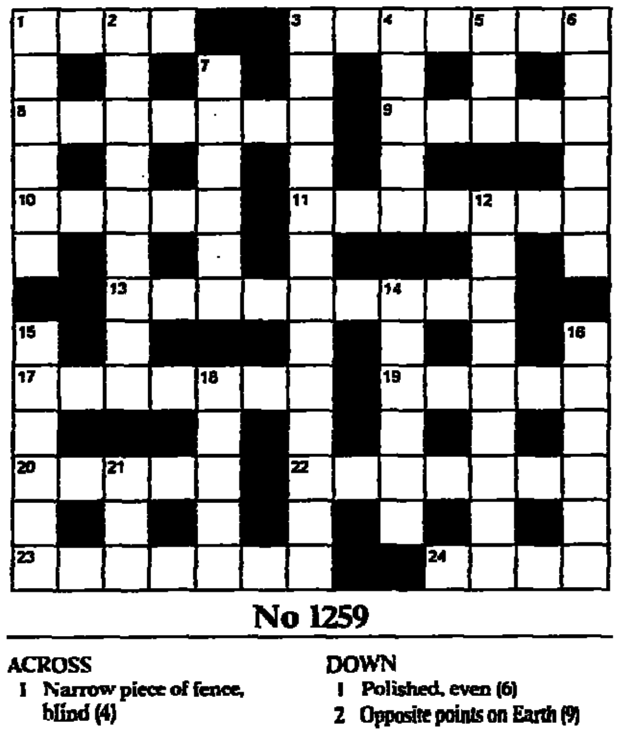
Japanese banks have been sent reeling by the global instability in equity markets, which has cut the value of their reserves. The fall has exacerbated racketeering scandals plaguing many Japanese companies.

Fuji Bank said it is expecting a Y10-20 billion loss on loans to Yamaichi affiliates at home and abroad, while adding that this should not be problematic.

SENIOR finance officials hid the true extent of South Korea's financial problems from the country's president, Kim Young Sam, until earlier this week, Rosemary Richter writes.

Publicly, Korea, which has now turned to the IMF for assistance, said it had $30.5 billion (£18 billion) of foreign reserves, barely enough to cover its foreign indebtedness, but in fact the figure was actually around $10 billion. The country's financial crisis has brought a collapse in the vaule of the Korean won, the resignation of the finance minister and a plea to the IMF for up to $60 billion of aid.

Seoul's merry-go-round, page 50



No 1259

ACROSS
- 1 Narrow piece of fence, blind (4)
- 3 Extinct hairy elephant (7)
- 8 Can. province; a Great Lake (7)
- 9 List of beliefs (5)
- 10 Slightly drunk (5)
- 11 (Mil.) contact; an illicit affair (7)
- 13 Blacken reputation of (9)
- 17 Visible (2,5); penetration (7)
- 19 Slope, slide; sounds like *fire* (5)
- 20 Sacred shrine in 4 (5)
- 22 Ancestral descent (7)
- 23 A crossing (7)
- 24 Collapsed; moor (4)

DOWN
- 1 Polished, even (6)
- 2 Opposite points on Earth (9)
- 3 Bilkers' night-time escape (9,4)
- 4 Hajj destination (5)
- 5 Lyric poem (3)
- 6 Lying doggo; thrashing (6)
- 7 Colouring stick (6)
- 12 Gamble; theorise (9)
- 14 Gram. mark, may be *grave* (6)
- 15 Strike enforcer; sort of fence (6)
- 16 Remove from statute book (6)
- 18 Drinking vessel (5)
- 21 Brit. athletics body; top credit rating (1,1,1)

SOLUTION TO NO 1258

ACROSS: 1 Typescripts 8 Seamy 9 Bethany 10 Et al 11 Cottager 13 Nutmeg 14 Jousts 17 Wrangler 19 Bass 22 Grammar 23 Chime 24 Little Women

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Ministers ready to legislate on pay

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government is to bring forward legislation to introduce a national minimum wage as one of the industries most likely to be hit by it claims that it could cost up to 90,000 jobs.

Ministers are ready to publish a Bill, possibly this week, to make it unlawful for any employer to pay below a minimum level to be determined by the Government.

George Bain, chairman of the Low Pay Commission, yesterday forecast that a minimum wage would be operational by April 1999, once the Government's legislation had been passed. He told BBC-TV's *Breakfast with Frost*: "All the indications are that the Government intends to introduce the legislation in this session of Parliament."

Business in Sport and Leisure, an employers' umbrella group for the industry, which employs about 2.5 million people, yesterday said the minimum wage could cost up to 90,000 jobs.

Napier poised to quit Redland role

By Chris Ayres

ROBERT NAPIER, the embattled chief executive of Redland, will leave the building materials group whatever the outcome of the £1.6 billion hostile bid currently being made for the company by Lafarge, its French rival.

His departure was confirmed yesterday by Redland, which pays him £435,000, including a basic salary of £332,000, on a two-year rolling contract. He is expected to receive compensation of about £700,000. Rudolph Agnew, Redland's non executive chairman, will become executive chairman to help to fight the 320p per share bid by Lafarge. Part of Redland's strategy is to sell its 56 per cent stake in Redland Braas Building, its European roof tile subsidiary, for an estimated £800 million.

Lafarge yesterday denied reports that it was considering raising its offer for Redland from 320p per share to 350p per share.

Redland will publish its defence plan on Wednesday.

French face battle of superloo

By Fraser Nelson

A BATTLE of the superloos is set to break out in France next week if Jean-Claude Decaux, the country's richest advertising baron, is told that his company must accept head-on competition from More Group, its UK rival.

Decaux SA, which owns almost every bus stop, superloo and street map in France, will next Monday learn whether the Government will take action to loosen its stranglehold on the the country's £250 million "street furniture" market.

If the company is told to reword contracts with French local authorities, as is widely expected, the sector will be thrown open to competition, with More Group positioned as the strongest outsider.

Decaux's billboard rivals, with a tiny slice of the French superloo market, say the company uses complex contracts, making competitive tendering almost impossible. The Federation d'Affichage, representing poster groups, will hear next Monday whether competition authorities will allow local authorities to scrap any restrictions and invite new bidders.

More Group, which has been fighting Decaux in the UK bus stop market for years through the More O'Ferrall brand, is already advancing on its rival. Last July, the city of Rennes ditched its contract with Decaux and handed a £1.6 million deal to More Group. It says this is the first time an overseas company has stepped in for 25 years.

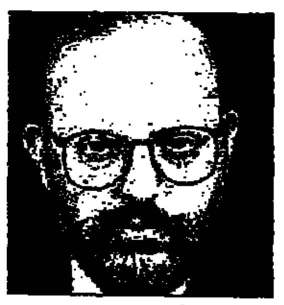
Mr Parry, chief executive of More Group, said: "We would adore the chance to compete in France, because we won in Rennes and I'm sure we could do it again. No company can possibly complain about fighting on a level playing field and it means the local authority gets more for their money.

"I can live with the fact that there are Decaux bus shelters in the middle of London; it's all fair competition."

M Decaux is widely credited with inventing the street furniture market, then making it the largest in the world. Under its system, private companies approach city councils and offer to build and look after anything from bus stops to high street maps.

Councils pay nothing, while the company pockets all proceeds from selling advertising space which is always built in.

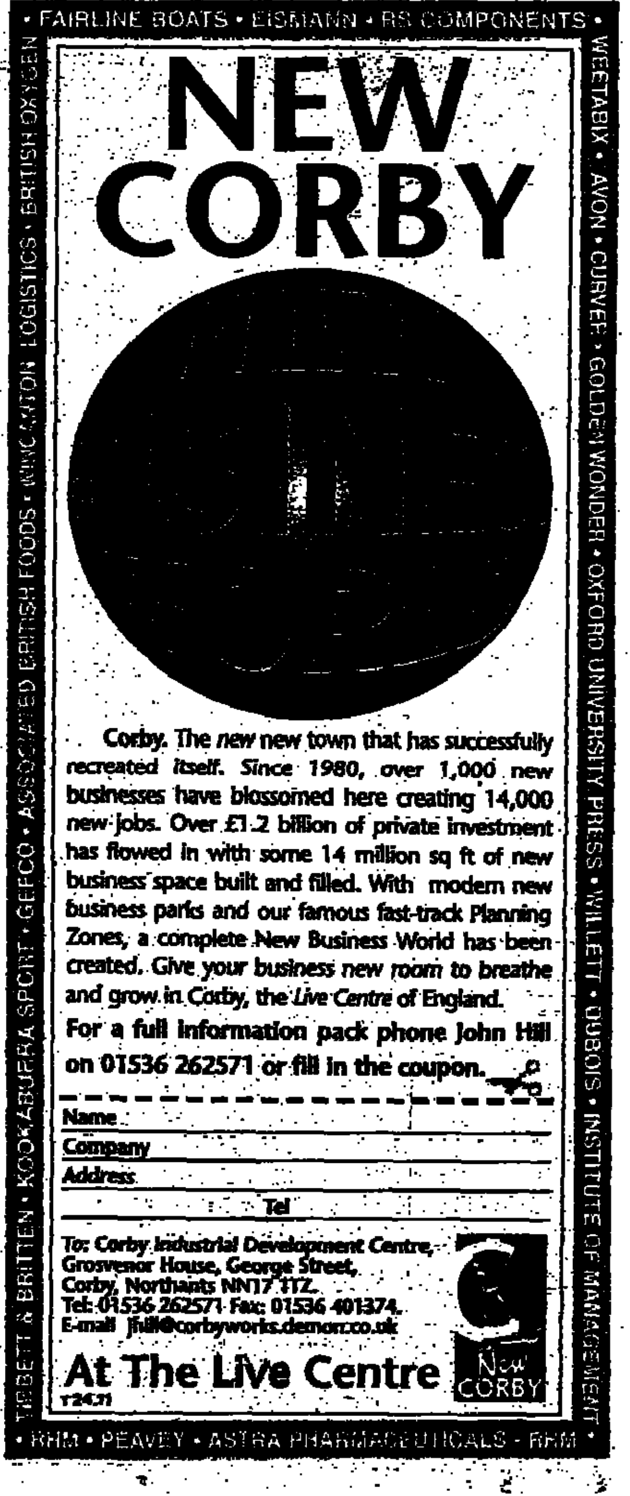
This week in THE TIMES



■ **Tomorrow**
Marketing, is it an art or is it a science? Julian Lee provides the answers.

■ **Wednesday**
As the world counts the cost of the El Niño weather system, Alasdair Murray assesses the damage.

■ **Thursday**
Graham Searjeant, left, returns with his inimitable view of the latest developments in world markets.



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At The Live Centre
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